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FEMALE STABILITY:

OR, THE

H I S T O R Y

O F

M I S S B E L V I L L E.

VOLUME II.

16

1871

FEMALE STABILITY

OF THE

WOMAN

OF

MISS DELVILLÉ

VOLUME II

FEMALE STABILITY:

OR, THE

H I S T O R Y

O F

MISS BELVILLE.

I N A

SERIES OF LETTERS.

BY THE LATE

MISS PALMER.

V O L. II.

L O N D O N :

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FEMALE STABILITY:

OR, THE

HISTORY of *Miss* BELVILLE.

Sir JAMES THOMPSON in Continuation.

Asbley-Park.

FOR three days Mrs. Abinton sent constantly to enquire after me, but the lovely Harriet was not in all that time near the park. The concern I felt for her indifference was so exquisite, that, joined to the disorder of my body, threw me into a violent fever, in which I continued delirious for a fortnight, my aunts and physicians not expecting my life; when a sudden and unexpected turn in my constitution

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inspired the whole family with hopes of my recovery. The first use I made of my regained reason was to enquire after Miss Abinton: I eagerly seized the hand of my aunt Sukey, who sat at the head of my bed, and begged her to inform me how she did. "Compose yourself, Sir James, and I will inform you. She is at present very well, but has been ill with a cold during your fever." "Has she seemed desirous of my life, tell me, my dear madam? has she appeared uneasy at my situation?" "You must not talk so much, Sir James, you will again bring on your fever: I do assure you miss Abinton has been desirous of your life; she has often seen you in your delirium, and always shed tears. Her prayers were offered to heaven for your restoration to health." "They have prevailed, and I am again permitted to live: the whole study of my life shall be to make her amends for those precious tears, and my gratitude shall be as boundless as my love. But may I not see her, madam? indeed I am as well as ever I was; it would compleat my recovery to behold my adored Harriet." "Hush, Sir James, I cannot consent to any thing so imprudent; when you have recovered your strength, perhaps we may bring Miss Abinton to see you; but not unless you promise to do all you can for yourself, and patiently submit to what is thought proper for you."

My

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My other aunts came in, and expressed the greatest pleasure to see me so much better. I would hardly attend to their congratulations, but begged them to suffer Miss Abinton to see me. "Consent, dear ladies, to my felicity; I have already gained my aunt Sukey's approbation. "Nephew, (answered the eldest lady) you are sensible I would do all in my power to make you happy, but it would be the height of imprudence to hazard your health by an interview so interesting: I am sorry my sister has promised a thing I cannot ratify, but her good-nature led her into it." "Good-nature, indeed! (repeated miss Betty) say rather her folly. Would any body but an ideot have promised such a thing to a man who has but just recovered his senses? As to Sir James, he would not care what became of him, so as he could but gratify his prevailing inclinations; besides, the sight of him in this condition, would near kill miss Abinton; we have had enough of that already; he shall not see her by my consent, at least this month: here is ado, indeed, with obstreperous passions; you must consent to be governed, nephew, or we will force you." I called her cruel woman, and the other ladies severely rebuked her for her ill-natured speech. The eldest addressed me in the mildest accents: "Be comforted, my dear Sir James; I assure you, upon my honour, Miss

A 4

Abinton

Abinton shall come to the park as soon as prudence will allow of it; the sweet humane girl has been deeply affected with your illness, and will rejoice to attend you; but as this visit entirely depends on yourself, you must endeavour to get well as soon as you can, and not agitate your mind by disagreeable meditations." As the sight of my love was not to be procured by any thing but a submission to her will, I promised to obey her. She and Miss Betty quitted the room, leaving strict orders that I should be kept quiet. It was so; but I in vain strove to calm my mind; hope and fear took alternate possession of me, and I could not compose my thoughts: you can better imagine than I describe what I felt; my state of suspense was terrible; sometimes I imagined I was beloved by Miss Abinton, at others I found means of dashing all my hopes, and was convinced she regarded me with indifference.

Two whole days longer passed, without my being able to obtain the wish of my heart. My aunts and the physician continually opposing my inclinations: the third day, both the doctor and Mr. Fracture declared their patient might be indulged in seeing the lady he so anxiously desired, as no ill effects was to be apprehended from it. Miss Betty, who was absent when this decree was pronounced, did not enter the room till after the doctor had left it: however,

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however, unfortunately for Mr. Fracture, she came before he was gone. As I am better able to describe the scene that ensued, than at the time it passed I was of enjoying it, I will exhibit it for your entertainment. My other aunts had left the chamber with the doctor, so that the whole audience was myself; who attended in silence to the following dialogue.—“ Your most obedient, Miss Thompson: I hope, madam, I see you well?” “ Why, so, so, Mr. Fracture: I have had a disagreeable pain in my foot all night: I do not think that chilblain was properly cured; rather too hastily healed: I am greatly apprehensive a mortification may be the consequence some day or other. My sisters only laugh at my fears; but I have known less things than this end very seriously: one cannot be too cautious, Mr. Fracture. As I have some knowledge of physic, as well as surgery, I am always for taking things in time.” “ You are certainly right, madam;” replied the son of the slicing art, “ nothing, as you observe, like taking things in time: many a leg and arm have been saved amputation, from proper management at first. If you will give me leave, I will attend you to-morrow, and bring with me things proper to discover the situation of your foot.” “ I shall be glad to see you, sir, for that purpose,” answered the lady, “ but how do you find my nephew to-day?”

day?" "Why, greatly mended, madam:---- I cannot avoid saying, Sir James has been recovered to a miracle. I never was witness to a more terrible confusion in the head than his; but that salve of mine is a most admirable receipt: he would never have been cured, but for that salve. Then, as to his arm, nothing could have been in a worse state, unless it had been broke: indeed, it was as near broke as any thing possibly could be, and not absolutely done. Altho' I have done wonderful cures in my time, I never was so much surprized as at this. I believe the gentlemen at Surgeons-hall would allow this was a most amazing exertion of skill." "I agree with you, sir; and tho' doctor Worthy would not allow it to be so bad, I knew very well he was in a very dangerous way. My sisters, who have an entire reliance on the doctor, coincided in his opinion; and protested they feared no ill effects from the accident, but the fever which it had occasioned. But as I told them this manner of arguing was foolish, and proved their ignorance; that any person might see with half an eye, Sir James was in imminent danger from the cut in his head, independent of his fever," "You are a lady of infinite judgment, upon my word, Miss Thompson: no gentleman of the faculty could have argued better. Your sisters, madam, are not possessed of your penetration in physical mat-

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matters, therefore I do not wonder at their opinions: but for doctor Worthy to expose himself in such a manner, is amazing! You must know, madam, for all the doctor has got into great business, he has no vast knowledge of physic: the college held his abilities in rather a contemptuous light; but great interest is every thing now-a-days, Miss Thompson; only a few are capable of distinguishing real merit. 'Tis not always the most learned, or able men that succeed in our way of life; as we see in the doctor's case. But, dear madam, I beg this may go no farther, on any account: I am under some obligations to doctor Worthy, that I would not have him know I spoke disrespectfully of him for the world. To you I did not scruple to declare my sentiments; though to no other person I would venture to do it." "I am greatly obliged to you, Mr. Fracture," answered the lady, "you may depend on my secrecy. I did not know before the doctor was in general regarded as ignorant in his profession; yet I have often thought his knowledge was not very extensive, as he has more than once contradicted my opinions in cases as clear as the day; for which reason I have disliked him ever since." "The strongest confirmation of his want of knowledge in nature, madam: for no one who had a grain of judgment, would pretend to depreciate your abilities in that way.

way. A man would rather rejoice to have his own head assisted by one so capable. I hinted, just now, madam, I was under some little obligations to the doctor: many people would look upon it as nothing; but as I am of a grateful disposition, I always acknowledge it. You must know, about twenty years ago, when the doctor was first rising in business, I took great pains to recommend him, and was fortunate enough to introduce him to several families of quality; in return for which, he got me made surgeon to a regiment, where I soon obtained great reputation; and should have made my fortune, had it not been for a quarrel that happened between our adjutant and myself. This fellow had insulted me about some circumstances of my profession; which he pretended to say I did not understand. Fired with the indignity, I kicked him out of the room, and several officers, who came to his assistance, shared the adjutant's fate. This so incensed the whole regiment against me (most of whom were terribly afraid of my courage) that I was obliged to leave my employment, and only practise privately. Upon my deserting the regiment, (who I believe more than once regretted my loss, as a pert, ignorant, pragmatical fellow was appointed to succeed me,) the doctor took it into his head to blame my conduct; this created a great coldness between us, which has continued

tinued ever since; and had I not the most grateful disposition in the world, I should never mention this pitiful obligation." "Indeed, I think so," replied Miss Betty, "and I do assure you, Mr. Fracture, was I in your place, I should not regard myself as under any obligations to doctor Worthy: particularly, as he is so much your inferior in judgment." "Miss Thompson, I am your most obedient." "Not at all, sir: why, the doctor, the other day, would have permitted Sir James to see a lady he desired, had it not been for me: no man who had a grain of knowledge, would have thought of such a thing. I was obliged to scold him heartily, before I could make him lay aside his purpose." "At that time you was quite right, madam; and indeed, I think we are not a little obliged to your care in this illness: your good sense has regulated the over-great indulgence of the other ladies." "Yes, sir; you may be obliged to me: but those who ought to think themselves under obligations, rather regard me as impertinent; but I do not care for that, as long as I do right." "I was going to observe, madam, that altho' you acted wisely, in refusing the request of Sir James, some days ago, the case is altered now." "I hope it is: but as to suffering my nephew to follow his head-strong inclinations, I have no notion of it. He shall not see Miss Abinton, by my consent,

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sent, for at least a fortnight to come." "Pardon me, madam," cried the trembling surgeon, "but I must beg leave to dissent from you in this particular. The wound in the head, as I may say, is perfectly healed; and as the arm is in a very fair way, I do not see why we should make the Baronet uneasy, by refusing his request." "You do not see, sir!" repeated the lady, with visible displeasure; "but if you do not, that is no reason I should give up my understanding." "Far be it from me, madam, to wish you should." "Very well, sir; it signifies nothing whether you wish it, or not; I shall still assert my opinion, tho' it may be in contradiction to all the ignorant tribe of *Æsculapius*." "Certainly, Miss Thompson, you have a right so to do: but I was going to inform you, as we found Sir James so much better, both the doctor and I had consented he might see the lady." "Oh, you did! why, then, sir, both you and the doctor are ignoramuses." "I am sorry I have offended you, madam; but if you will condescend to consider this matter;" "tell me not of consideration, why, my nephew's death may be the consequence of your folly." "Indeed, madam, no danger is to be apprehended." "Grant me patience," exclaimed the lady, in the most passionate accent, "your ignorance is enough to make

make one mad : did I not tell you my nephew would not see the lady ? how could you be such a fool as to consent ?” “ I could not bely my opinion, madam, as I should have incurred the displeasure of Sir James.” “ So you did not value mine. Very well, Mr. Fracture, you shall receive no more trouble on my account. I thought I might depend on your opposing him and my sisters ; but you dread offending them, and dare grossly to insult my judgment.” “ Upon my word, madam, I did not mean to insult you ; but the best judgment may be sometimes in the wrong.” “ And have you the impudence to say I am in the wrong ? Get out of the house this minute. I am rightly served for taking notice of such a poor illiterate, ignorant quack, as you are : but, sir, you may make your exit as soon as you please.”

I thought it high time to break the silence I had observed, as I believe they imagined me asleep. “ What’s the matter, Mr. Fracture ?” “ I have incurred Miss Thompson’s displeasure, Sir James, by consenting you should be made happy by a sight of the young lady you are so anxious to behold.” “ Ah, what, my aunt Betty ! you must not mind her, sir ; she is never content but when she is making people uneasy : no uncommon thing in her to be in those

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those passions, I assure you ; I only wonder not to see your eyes torn out, or face streaming : the lady is not to be governed in her rage." These words deprived her of the power of articulation ; but though she could not speak, she had not lost the use of her hands, which she several times endeavoured to employ on the face of the alarmed healer of contusions ; but by an exertion of agility, he passed hastily by her, and ran out of the house. Miss Betty, finding it was impossible to overtake him, retired sullenly to her own chamber, not deigning to cast a look at me. On the appearance of the other ladies, I entertained them with the scene I have just related ; and concluded with entreating them to send for my Harriet this afternoon, instead of to-morrow, as I was well enough to bear the interview ; but I could not obtain my request. They told me I must have patience till the time appointed by the doctor came. As I had experienced opposition would be vain, I was unwillingly obliged to submit. The long expected moment at last arrived, and I was blessed with the sight of the loveliest woman in the world. But as the account of our meeting is too long to relate in this, without infinitely exceeding all moderation, I will defer sending you this important event till some other time.

Fare-

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Farewel, Freemer; be assured I shall rejoice to hear you are happy.

Ever your's,

JAMES THOMPSON.

Miss BELVILLE to Miss ABINTON.

Myrtle-Grove.

YOUR last, my dear girl, giving an account of Sir James Thompson's accident, and your behaviour sensibly shocked your Adeline. You tell me he is better, but you have not yet seen him since he recovered his senses. How I tremble for my Harriet's tender heart in this interview! Endeavour, my sweet friend, to govern your feelings as much as possible. I agree with you in supposing that Sir James must have discovered your partiality by your behaviour in the carriage; but if he loves you, it will endear you to him; and if on the contrary, you must studiously avoid his company: in the latter case, my Harriet, intreat your mother to spare you to me for a little while, till Sir James leaves Ashley-park. I will endeavour to make Myrtle-Grove agreeable to you; and, by every effort in my power, strive to dissipate your melancholy: Charlotte will enliven your gayer moments, and the pensive Sir Ed-

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Edward share in your serious ones. Come, my beloved girl, and by time and absence, totally forget Sir James.

Since I wrote last, I have received the box from Sir Edward; it is very elegant, transparent pearl set round with brilliants; a most beautiful picture of Lady Wilmot in the lid; he tells me it is the strongest likeness he ever saw. I find he has informed the Earl of his love, and application to me. They are entirely reconciled, and as firm friends as ever. I cannot avoid being pleased with myself for having behaved to both in so equal and explicit a manner. It was this, Sir Edward assured me, prevented perhaps a fatal catastrophe. My Lord is violent in his passions, and Sir Edward no less so. Had I not acted as I did, they might both, ere now, have been no more. Oh Heavens; my dear Harriet, I shudder even now at what might have been the consequence of their unfortunate love.

Yesterday, the family from the Abbey spent the day with us; we were very happy. Sir Harry Evelin was every thing, attentive, polite, agreeable; the whole company was delighted with him. Charlotte whispered me, if he had been twenty years younger, she would have left George to wear the willow, and Sir Harry should be her *enamorado*. In the afternoon,

noon, we all adjourned to my little retirement in the grove; I played on the harpsichord and sung, as Sir Edward had never heard me. He was rapturous in his compliments on my poor performance; and when I had finished, he took my hand: "My beloved Miss Belville," said he, softly, "for pity's sake, suppress some of your amiable accomplishments, or I shall become again a traitor to friendship, and by the expression of my feelings, offend the gentle Adeline." "I do not fear you, Sir Edward; the heart that knows its own weakness, and has had magnanimity to repair its errors, is not more liable to fall than one that has never swerved from the rules of rectitude." "Dear, indulgent girl," replied he, "you bind me faster in your chains every hour of my life."

We were interrupted by Sir Harry, who told us he had prepared a little amusement, if we would do him the honour of attending to it. He took my hand, leaving my Lord, Sir Edward, and Colonel Medway, to take care of the other ladies. We proceeded towards the upper-end of the grove, where we found several musicians placed under the trees at proper distances, who played a variety of the finest pieces of musick I ever heard, to the great delight of the whole circle, who all thanked him for the entertainment he had afforded them. After our little concert we retired to the great hall;
and

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and danced 'till twelve o'clock. I did not know how to proceed in respect to a partner, as both the Earl and Sir Edward looked as if they thought I should dance with them; but Mrs. Evelin relieved my dilemma by saying aloud, "My dear Adeline, you will favour my brother with your hand." Charlotte seeing me engaged, advanced to Sir Edward, and taking hold of his arm, "Come, Wilmot, I shall dance with you." Why, you will not desert the colonel, Miss Duncannon?" "Yes I will, the wretch has affronted me, and I will not suffer him to come near me this seven years." "If I have been to blame, my beloved Charlotte, impute it to the——" "Hold your tongue, I will impute it to nothing but your impudence and self-sufficiency. Come, Sir Edward, if you will not dance with me I shall seat myself again." The Colonel came to me: "Do, my dear madam, endeavour to reconcile Charlotte to me; upon my honour she has no reason to be offended, as you would say if you knew what had passed." "I do believe you, sir, and will see what I can do with this strange girl." I strove in vain to persuade her to forgive him. She told me I should blush for having interceded for him, when I knew his crime. This silenced me, and I returned unsuccessful to the Colonel, who was obliged to be satisfied with Mrs. Duncannon,

cannon, instead of her lively daughter. Tho' our party was not large, we had a very agreeable dance, and afterwards an elegant collation in the dining room. We did not part 'till late, and then with a promise of meeting soon, in order to shew Sir Harry the Temple of Love.

Charlotte engaged me to ride with her the next morning; she was so pressing in her solicitations, I could not refuse her. When they were gone, I took a candle in order to retire to my own apartment. Sir Harry entreated I would favour him with my company one quarter of an hour longer. As he had been so very obliging, I did not hesitate to comply with his request, and immediately sat down again. Sir Harry continued silent some time, and appeared embarrassed; at last rising, he addressed me thus:

“The interest I take in every thing that concerns my amiable Miss Belville, I hope will plead my excuse for the questions I am going to ask. Believe me, madam, your welfare is dearer to my heart than any thing else on earth; the ward of my brother, setting your uncommon perfections out of the case, would be intitled to my regard: how much more then must you be endeared to me, who are mistress of every qualification that can ornament or exalt your sex!” Finding he paused, I answered him: “The professions of regard with

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which you honour me, Sir Harry Evelin, is not only a gratification of my vanity, but (from a man of your knowledge of the world) a source of real satisfaction; the brother of my dear Mrs. Evelin, to whom I under many obligations, may propose any questions to me, and reasonably expect an explicit answer."

I ceased: Sir Harry took my hand and bowed on it: "Lovely Adeline, (he exclaim'd) your good sense is only equalled by the greatness of your beauty." I withdrew my hand; he instantly looked grave. "Pardon me, madam, these trifling liberties are involuntary: I have observed Miss Belville, (continued he); the anxious affection both of Lord Arundel and Sir Edward Wilmot; their love and admiration of you are evident; are they not your declared lovers?" "I have promised to answer you explicitly, Sir Harry, and therefore acknowledge they are." "Forgive me, madam, but I have an interest in farther demanding, are either of them accepted by you?" "Whatever are your motives for this enquiry, sir, I answer they are not." "Again I beg you to excuse me; but is there not a man more fortunate than these gentlemen, who possesses your heart?" I smiled: "upon my word, Sir Harry, if you were a young man I should not be pleased with this strict enquiry; but, as it is, I assure you, upon my honour, there is not. I am at present, and I doubt not ever shall

shall be, indifferent to the whole sex: my objection to the tender passion arise not from a girlish affectation, but from reasons, which if declared, I dare say you, as well as others, would allow were just and laudable. It pains me, Sir Harry, to have inspired the gentlemen you have just named with so strong an affection; the worth of each is infinite, and I feel for them the innocent regard of a sister: before they knew me they were happy, possessed of every thing to render life desirable; youth, affluence, joined to the most exalted friendship for each other, which was formed in infancy, and each day cemented by the similitude of their dispositions; from this pure source their chief pleasure sprang, together with the self-complacent turn of thought they possessed, arising from two of the best hearts in the world: thus lived Lord Arundel and Sir Edward, 'till they unfortunately saw me at Lady Stanley's; actuated by the same feelings, they both conceived a violent passion for me: the Earl was first in his declaration; I gave him to understand he had nothing to hope----Sir Edward then applied, and received the same refusal. I found this affair had caused a distance between them, which with all the power I was mistress of I laboured to reconcile: after much trouble, I brought it about by the equality of my behaviour to both, and an absolute adherence to my resolution of remaining for ever a stranger to
 love

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love; which I explained to them with the utmost candour and openness. At first I feared the most tragical period to one, or perhaps both; but I have now the happiness of being assured they are entirely reconciled, convinced their situation is hopeless with me as lovers. I flatter myself they will be content with my sincere friendship, which they really equally possess." I ceased; he seemed absorbed in thought: at last, recollecting himself, he addressed me thus: "Ten thousand thanks, my amiable girl, for this unreserved explanation; how few women are there capable of such an exemplary conduct! but I cannot account for the behaviour of these gentlemen; it seems incompatible with love: is it possible any man who truly adores a woman, which I confess they both appear to do, should so far conquer himself as to look upon his rival as a friend? I think, Miss Belville, had I been either the Earl or Sir Edward, I should not have been reconciled after such a circumstance." "I believe, Sir Harry, there are more of your way of thinking; it is not every mind that is capable of friendship; therefore to some, no doubt, it must appear in a light highly unnatural." "You have explained my thoughts, madam; I do indeed look upon such an exertion of friendship as unnatural; for is not love the first emotion of the soul? does it not bear down every

every affection, every feeling? Does it not conquer even the most virtuous principles of the mind? how then is it capable of calmly yielding to the cold indifference of friendship? with respect to the violence of love, I agree with you, Sir Harry; but, as to its conquering the fixed and virtuous principles of the mind, I absolutely deny it. The heart that really glows with the fervent emotions of love, is rather confirmed in its good and virtuous inclinations; it spurs its votaries to every thing laudable and great, in order to render themselves more worthy the beloved object. Those, who for a mean, sensual gratification, would either sacrifice their principles, forsake their friend, or lead their mistress into difficulties and distress, possess not the noble affection of love. They act from a sensation too detestable to mention.” “ These refined notions, my dear Miss Belville, might do very well in the primitive ages of virtue: but now they are intirely out of date. The influence of virtue is now over; and men act from the dictates of reason, and the instigations of their passions.” “ If they acted from the dictates of reason, I should hope, Sir Harry, we should not see so much depravity in the world. I fear the passions, solely unchecked either by religion or morality, are the guide, as well as instigators of their fa-

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yourite pursuits." "You know, Miss Belville, we had once an argument of this sort before; when I was unfortunate enough to differ from you. I am convinced the opinions you assert are the sentiments of your heart; to which guilt and deceit are entire strangers: you therefore picture to yourself the rest of the world, equally amiable: but tho' this is certainly a beautiful error, yet, trust me, madam, you will find it one." "You are mistaken, sir, if you imagine I draw my conclusions only from what I myself feel. Altho' my residence has not been long here, yet I have found many characters to confirm my opinion of existing virtue. I acknowledge with sorrow, Sir Harry, the vicious part of mankind are far the most numerous: but still I am convinced there are many good people in the world, whose actions are entirely regulated by rectitude, and the hope of a better state." "Oh, my dear Miss Belville! that conviction will surely vanish men in general; nay, I may say all act from the impulses of their predominate inclinations, be they what they will; and the difference we see between them, arises merely from a variety of dispositions. Some have more cunning, and gloss their conduct under the specious mask of integrity, and honour; while others openly pursue the scheme of life to which the bent of their minds lead them, careless of
the

the censure or approbation of the more hypocritical part of the species. But we have wandered from the place we set out at. I have received the utmost satisfaction from your candour and ingenuity, madam; and it matters not whether the conduct of the Earl and Sir Edward proceeded from nature, or was the effect of that romantick virtue they imagine they possess: that they are not beloved by you is sufficient." "As the brother of Mrs. Evelin, Sir Harry, I looked upon you as entitled to what I have informed you of; as well as by your very great politeness this afternoon, and at many other times. But it grows very late: I must beg leave to retire." "One moment more, charming Adeline! and you are at liberty to go." Mrs. Evelin opened the door, and looked amazed to find her brother and me there. "Bless me, Sir Harry! I thought you were in bed an hour ago! what, have you and Adeline been settling the nation?" "No indeed, sister; we have been settling something of much greater importance." "Well, then, it must be the politicks of the whole world." "No, upon my honour: our speculations were confined to a much narrower circumference." "But I find it is a profound secret; so I will enquire no farther." "Truly, Mrs. Evelin," interrupted your Adeline, "Sir Harry's conversation, and mine is no secret:

if you please, you shall be informed of it."

"Do not satisfy her curiosity, Miss Belville: leave her to exercise her imagination."

"It is hardly worth while, sir, when the matter is so easily cleared up."

"Well, well, my dear," replied she, "I do not wish to know your secret: It is high time for us to retire, if we mean to have any sleep this morning"

"I will attend you to your chamber, Miss Belville."

I curtsied to Sir Harry, who wished every good angel might guard my slumbers; and went with Mrs. Evelin, who left me at the door of my room.

I was amazed to find the light was already wide awake; and sat myself down to contemplate the beauties of opening morning.

My thoughts soon made a quick transition to the events of the preceding day; and the conversation with Sir Harry.

I sometimes repented my explicitness to him, and at others regarded it as a matter of no importance.

That man has a turn of mind, my dear Harriet, at times really disgusting; and yet, when he thinks it worth his while, he is the most agreeable and entertaining companion in the world:

his politeness, and unwearied attention to oblige your Adeline, engaged my gratitude, and put me more off my guard than I intended; for I should never chuse Sir Harry for a confidant:

but as he can be of no consequence it signifies not. During our conversation, he regarded

me

me with a kind of passionate fondness, which, to me, was very disagreeable. I knew his declared admiration of the sex, and therefore did not so much wonder at it. Upon my word, these men of gallantry allow themselves strange liberties in looks and expressions, not very pleasing. I sat ruminating on these events till the brilliant sun broke in upon my meditations. As I found myself very much fatigued, I retired to bed for an hour or two: I slept till near ten, and arose in haste, as I was informed Lord Arundel, and Sir Edward attended me below, on horseback. I hurried on my habit, and flew down to them: after drinking a dish of chocolate, I mounted my pretty snow-ball, and galloped off for the abbey. I must defer giving you an account of this day, as my letter is already an immense size: let me hear from you as soon as possible: in return for your communications, you may be certain of the minutest circumstance which may attend your sincerely affectionate

ADELINE BELVILLE.

P. S. If a certain disagreeable event should happen, do not forget my request to your mother; to whom I beg my tenderest respects.

*Miss ABINTON to Miss BELVILLE.**Elmwood.*

YES, my beloved Adeline, I will intreat my mother to spare me to your friendship. If Sir James is insensible, I will fly from this fatal spot where my misery commenced, and seek for comfort and consolation from my amiable Miss Belville. Why was I not born incapable of tender emotions? why was I fated to pine in hopeless love? I fear, my Adeline, thy poor Harriet will be unhappy; yet I have at times an idea Sir James loves me, but I have no assurance he does. Oh! what a state is suspense! I saw him during his delirium; but he knew not how many tears I shed: how hard my situation! I was forced to conceal the feelings of my heart from the observation of his family; I acted a part foreign to my nature, and appeared only commonly compassionate, when I was indeed interested more tenderly in his recovery, than any person present. My dear mama has exerted every effort in her power to amuse my melancholy hours. I have endeavoured to appear composed when my heart has been a prey to the most racking sensations, that I might not seem ungrateful to her kindness. During the first of his illness, she in-

dulged;

dulged me in my grief without interruption ; but when she found it began to make depredations on my health, she gently remonstrated against it, and, by the excellence of her management, brought me to lay aside, in some degree, my excessive sorrow. In order to banish the painful idea of Sir James Thompson's danger, she related all the incidents of her life, from the part she left off before, which was at her marriage with my father. I will send you the whole at large, my Adeline, when my heart is more at ease; I should not do justice to the narration at this time.

I blush for my weakness, when my mother has endured so much ; but surely I am a compound of weaker materials than the rest of my sex. In you I behold great misfortunes, yet a superior mind that scorns to yield to them ; in the sweet Louisa, I have seen magnanimity exerted even against the dictates of her own heart; to love so violent, yet so strictly prudent: her behaviour delights and amazes me; yet, alas, I cannot imitate her. Forgive and pity my foolish struggles, my amiable Adeline ; be assured I will not act unworthy the friend of your heart.

I am pleased you honoured Sir Edward's elegant present with your acceptance: the tenderness of his disposition endears him to me; would I could persuade my Adeline not to be

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so cruel ; he will surely make you happy. Perhaps you may not love him as you did Mr. Grenville, but his fondness and valuable qualifications would insure your gratitude, and may in time excite a tenderer emotion. The merit of the earl may be as great, but there is a sweetness in the character of Sir Edward more suited to my gentle friend. I cannot help hoping that time, and the attention of one of these gentlemen, may at last prevail on you to change your determination. But pardon me, Adeline, I would not offend you; believe me, thy Harriet would do any thing to secure thy felicity : and I flatter myself either Lord Arundel or Sir Edward would make you happy. But I have done, my dear girl; I will no more plead for them, lest it should be disagreeable to you. I cannot express my admiration of your conduct in regard to them : my mother agrees with me, and says, no woman, but Miss Belville, would have acted in such a manner as to preserve them friends.

Your conversation with Sir Harry, likewise meets with her highest approbation : she observed your sentiments were equally judicious on every subject ; and that for a lady of your age, she believed, there was none like you.

I am of opinion you will have a troublesome friend in Sir Harry Evelin. I am impatient to know more of his behaviour.

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The accounts you give of your little rural amusements, are elegant and delightful. I have often thought over Lord Arundel's project of the temple, and read with pleasure your charming description of it: will not my dear Adeline favour me with more of her poetic productions? The two specimens you gave me, were excellent; the sublimity of the ideas, the greatness of the thought, and the propriety of the application raised a pleasing sensation in my heart I am not able to define. You, my sweet girl, will understand what I mean; you excel more than any person I ever met with, in the pathetic as well as the noble and exalted flights of poetry.

I am interrupted; one of the Miss Thompsons is below; my mother sends for me; I must leave you till she is gone. I am returned, and if I have spirits, will inform you what passed. On my entering the room, Miss Thompson arose, and took my hand: "How is my dear Miss Abinton? you look pale; I hope you are well." "My Harriet, madam," answered my mother, "has been afflicted with the head-ach, which affects her appearance." "I bring a message from Sir James, Miss Abinton." (The sudden mention of him instantly caused the blood to fly to my face). Miss Thompson and my mother smiled, but took no other notice of my emotion. The lady went on thus;

“He desired me to intreat you would favour him with a visit this afternoon, as he is well enough to see company: I have obtained your mama’s permission, and hope you will not refuse my nephew’s request.” “I am happy to find Sir James is better, madam; and as my mama has given her consent, I will attend him as soon as you please.” “You are a very amiable lady, Miss Abinton; but I expected no less from your obliging disposition: my nephew will be infinitely happy in your goodness; he has talked of nothing but you ever since he has regained his senses; I do assure you we have had a hard matter to keep him within bounds; but young men, madam,” continued she to my mother, “have such strange ideas, they will not wait a moment for any thing they desire. Sir James has used every method in his power to obtain a sight of Miss Abinton; and, had it not been for my sister Betty, we should not have been able to have prevented him long ago: she is rather petulant in her temper, and Sir James was not able to encounter her as he used to do, and, therefore, was obliged to submit. I am very much rejoiced he may be indulged, as it really hurt me to be obliged to deny him. I shall return with a light heart, and tell him he may expect his fair visitor.” She arose: “Good morning, ladies, we shall see you both early.” Away she went.

I sat

I sat silent, deeply meditating. My mother took my hand; "Why are you thus thoughtful? Sir James wishes to see you; that does not make you uneasy?" "No, madam; but why does he wish to see me? perhaps to tell me my behaviour has discovered to him my weakness. Oh! my dear mama, how humiliating is that idea!" "Why, my beloved girl, do you seek to make yourself miserable? has not the conduct of the Baronet sufficiently evinced he is incapable of insulting any person, much less would he offer such an insult as you imagine? Oh, my dear, do not endeavour to make yourself unhappy by ideal fears; you heard what Miss Thompson said; you may reasonably expect to meet, at least, delicacy and tenderness from him, provided he has discovered your attachment: the man must be very inhuman; indeed, who is capable of treating a woman ill who honours him with a tender regard. You need not fear any thing disagreeable from this interview; preserve your resolution and dignity, my dear Harriet, and, innocent as thy heart is, you have no reason to apprehend any thing." I assured my mother I would follow her advice, and begged leave to retire. She indulgently permitted me, and I left the room to inform my beloved Adeline of what had passed. Adieu. Let me hear every thing.

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thing that relates to you. My mother unites her love with that of your ever sincerely affectionate

HARRIET ABINTON.

Captain FREEMER to Sir JAMES THOMPSON.

Rose-Hill.

INDEED, Thompson, I was very uneasy at not hearing from you; but as your silence proceeded from so disagreeable an accident, I condole with you, instead of condemning. Upon my soul, I am much concerned at this affair; and heartily wish you may be entirely recovered before this reaches you, from all wounds but those of love, which will last, I hope, as long as you live. I have discovered, by your relation, a circumstance that seems to have escaped your clear sighted worship; and that is no other than Miss Abinton has nearly as great a regard for you, as you have for her. Surely she gave proof sufficient of a tender attachment, on your accident. No mortal, but a lover, would have been mistaken, in this case: I long for the continued account of your confinement: I think it will produce something favourable to your wishes. Neglect not to write, I entreat you; as your letters are the source of real enter-

tertainment to me in the rural scene I am
 fixed in at present. Sir Richard was eager to
 quit London as soon as possible; but his phy-
 sicians would not give him leave 'till last week.
 I was determined to attend him: as Miss Bel-
 ville was gone to Myrtle-Grove, and you was
 absent, I had no inducement to stay in town.
 As Sir Richard did not know my indifference
 on this head, he regarded it as a great favour.
 He told me, he could not expect a young man
 to leave the gaiety of London, to be shut up
 with an old fellow. I assured him his company
 was a real pleasure to me; and if he would give
 me leave to follow my own inclinations, I would
 attend him in preference. He shook me by the
 hand, saying, "My dear Charles, you are the
 best son in the world; and if you will but marry,
 to please me, I will give you my whole estate,
 and live upon fifty pounds a year." Is it not
 amazing, Thompson, that a man so generous,
 and desirous of making me happy, should so
 greatly mistake the means? My father has not
 an idea of a man's being miserable, who is pos-
 sessed of money. Worth and virtue yield, in his
 opinion, to the single advantage of fortune: and
 yet, he is far from an ignorant, or illiterate
 man: nay, in his youth, was remarked
 for liberal sentiments. Born to an af-
 fluent fortune, he contracted not this way
 of thinking from a sudden transition;
 we

we frequently see men, who, in contracted circumstances, are generous, and noble-minded: but if exalted by any turn of fortune, become avaritious, and sordid. It is a trite observation, that people in general fly from one extreme to another; but it is not verified in this case: with regard to my father, no such reason can be assigned; he never knew the distress of poverty, nor a want of money, in his whole life, and yet he is the veriest miser on earth: I tremble every hour, lest he should find out some woman with not a single qualification but a fortune, and propose her to me for a wife. A refusal would absolutely drive him to distraction; and although he doats upon his son, he would never forgive my having engaged my heart contrary to his inclinations. The beauty and accomplishments of Miss Somners would be no excuse in his opinion; and my obstinate attachment to her, would perhaps induce him totally to discard me.

I have wrote to the beloved of my heart, and am in expectation of an answer daily. She is in France. Her father's illness has obliged them to leave Venice for the mild air of Montpellier. I hope that will entirely restore Mr. Somners's health, as my Louisa's happiness is wrapped up in his welfare: if she is destined to lose him, I fear her gentle spirits will never recover so terrible a shock. I am happier than
I can

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I can express at her permission to write; by this mark of her love, she has removed a load from my mind, almost insupportable. I am certain where she is, and shall be informed from her own dear hand, how she bears our separation, and all that occurs. This idea enables me to support my fate: and I do not suffer my mind to dwell on disagreeable circumstances, nor endeavour to anticipate distant evils.

The departure of the fair Adeline, has cast a gloom upon the town: I find her absence greatly lamented by all the pretty fellows. Lord Arundel called on me some time ago, and informed me he was going to Belmont-Abbey, when he hoped, by his love and assiduity, to make an impression on the heart of Miss Belville, which he has hitherto found impossible. I am sorry for him; I never saw a man more violently in love than he is. Surely, the beautiful Adeline will not always remain inflexible. The Earl has qualifications that would recommend him to most ladies. But Miss Belville appears a lovely piece of snowy insensibility.

Adieu, Thompson; believe me most sincerely
Your's,

CHARLES FREEMER.

Sir

Sir HARRY EVELIN to Captain MONTAGUE.

Myrtle-Grove.

AT last, Montague, I believe the heart of Adeline begins to surrender : I find there is nothing like sapping a foundation. She would have withstood a storm, but she is not guarded against a regular siege. I have endeavoured to gain her gratitude, and under that mask, her love. I contrived a little amusement for her and some of her friends, among whom was the Earl of Arundel and Sir Edward Wilmot, both her declared lovers, and both regretted by her, as the innocent Adeline herself informed me. O how I triumphed ! What can possess this little girl to refuse such offers ? The Earl is allowed to be the handsomest man about town, and Sir Edward the most elegant ; they have a perfect attachment to Miss Belville, and would willingly settle their whole fortune on her, if she would give her hand to either. The fair Adeline repines at her beauty, and laments its power ; she wishes to be free from all solicitations of love, and is determined to give a negative to every offer ; in my life I never met with a woman so free from vanity. Her exquisite beauty seems not to affect her ; she is so totally unconscious of her own charms, that she hardly thinks herself tolerable. What can

this uncommon temper arise from? I never imagined I should find a woman possessed of beauty who valued it not; and I may confidently affirm this is the case with Miss Belville. Although I am surprized at an instance so extraordinary, yet I cannot avoid acknowledging there is something irresistibly pleasing in unconscious loveliness; and was I to advise the ladies in general how to proceed, in order to retain the adoration of our sex, they should make Miss Belville their model. No insolence nor superiority appear in her treatment of her lovers; but all is sweetness and condescension. I have greatly digressed from the plan I set out upon; I meant to inform you, Montague, what reason I had to suppose the beautiful maid did not retain her insensibility: she loaded me with acknowledgments for the pleasure I had given her in the concert, and on the first hint of my sister, gave me her hand for the dance, to the visible mortification of Lord Arundel and Sir Edward. I gloried in the distinction, and was in the highest spirits; nothing could equal the happiness of that evening: I swear I would not be deprived of it to have had the heart of the finest woman in the world. After the company were departed, the sweet charmer indulged me with her society for near two hours; my sister left us together; I was hardly master of myself: I had like to have broke
through

through the limits I had prescribed, and have avowed my love. Fortunately, however, I had discretion enough to restrain my feelings.

I entreated to know, as a friend only, how the Earl and Sir Edward stood in her opinion. I confess I did not imagine she would inform me; but, with the utmost candour, she related the commencement and progress of their passion, and how she had proceeded in declining their offers. She thanked me for my professions of friendship, and declared she was happy in them; avowed, her dislike to the tender sensation of love, arose not from a girlish affectation, but from reasons just and laudable. I suppose she meant her disappointment. Sweet creature, she has dressed up to herself the virtue of perpetual constancy, and means to devote her youth and matchless beauty to the memory of her departed lover. These romantic ideas must be eradicated. I did not press to know what these reasons were, but listened in silent admiration to her discourse: her delicate and unaffected manner of expressing herself, was highly entertaining; even if I had not been interested in what she was saying, I should have been charmed with her language. I ventured once to kiss her hand, but she drew it from me with an expression of anger in her fair face. I instantly apologized for my behaviour, and she again dressed her countenance in smiles.

I would

I would not offend her in the smallest degree, if possible; for I plainly see my success with her depends upon art. If I can once engage her confidence, I shall easily change my conduct; and it must at last turn out as I wish. In short, Montague, I will obtain Miss Belville, though my death should be the inevitable consequence. If all arts fail, I will honourably make her mine; but I must be desperate, indeed, when I make her an overture of that sort. My sister interrupted our conversation sooner than I wished, and the charming Adeline retired with her. I also sought my chamber, but could not sleep; my thoughts were tortured with a thousand terrible reflections: I feared Miss Belville might hear of Emilia's seduction, and perhaps forbid me to see her; again, the situation of that unhappy girl obtruded itself on my imagination; I saw her sinking in the grave, oppressed with sorrow. Her last pathetic recommendation of her children to my care, rang in my ear; and, for a moment, I would have given worlds to have never seen her. But the appearance of the sun again, and nature brilliant with his beams, banished these disagreeable ideas from my mind, and I left my bed, where I had not closed my eyes, and took a walk in the garden. I enquired if Miss Belville was up, but was told she was still in a profound sleep. I betook myself

self to her window, which fronts the garden, and fell into a serious reverie. To tell you the truth, Montague, I most cordially despised myself at that moment. The innocent, the lovely Adeline, could sleep content and peaceful, while the guilty Evelin was tormented with the stings of conscience: I even went so far as to entertain thoughts of laying aside my villainous scheme, and leave the beautiful maid to a man deserving her. But I found love had, indeed, taken stronger possession of my heart than to be drove out by a few paltry reproaches of what is called conscience; and I was resolved to pursue my purpose at all hazards. I inform you of these meditations in order to shew you I am above yielding to the weakness of nature, which at times shews us things in a terrible point of view, and, I have no doubt, frequently deters cowards from following the bent of their hearts; but, on me it had a very contrary effect. It confirmed me in my resolution, and I returned to the house with a full determination of gaining Miss Belville's heart, if possible, and then making my own advantage of it.

I found Lord Arundel and Sir Edward with my sister: we exchanged the utmost civility of language; and Mrs. Evelin ordered Miss Belville to be told the gentlemen were below. The sweet girl sent word she would attend them in a

mo-

moment. She accordingly entered the parlour soon afterwards, and made many apologies for having detained them. As I did not know she had made any engagement, I was amazed to see her dress for riding. I never beheld any thing so exquisitely lovely in my life: her habit was green silk, with silver frogs; the colour was admirably suited to the weather, as well as to the delicacy of her complexion. Her hat was of silk like her habit, with two large white ostrich feathers. The blush that ornamented her fair face, when she entered the room, gave a double grace to her appearance: and she looked and moved like the virgin huntress of the woods. The eyes of her lovers sparkled with pleasure at her sight; and they congratulated her on the recovery of her fatigue. "I have made you wait, gentlemen," said she, "but to tell you the truth, I was so much tired with setting up last night, that I never opened my eyes till Edging with difficulty waked me just now." "You are obliged to me, Miss Belville," answered I, "for breaking your rest, last night. Had I known it would have injured you, I would not have detained you a minute." "You are very obliging, Sir Harry; I have sustained no injury, I do assure you; and if I had, I could not blame you for it; for I did not go to bed a great while after I left you. The beauty of the opening morning kept me
awhile

awhile observing it; and I should not have thought of resting, had I not recollected my engagement with Miss Duncannon, and these gentlemen. I fear we shall excite Charlotte's anger, my Lord; had we not better make haste?" Mrs. Evelin hoped she should see her at dinner. "I am not sure," answered she, "I beg you will not stay for me, madam: I rather think I shall dine at the abbey." "I know the ladies expect that pleasure, Miss Belville," answered the Earl, "and may I not say both Sir Edward and myself hope you will favour us with your company?" "Yes, yes; you may so, my Lord; and I give you leave to imagine I shall pass the day very agreeably." They each took a hand, and pressed it to their lips; I could have stabbed them. Sir Edward whispered something; Miss Belville blushed, and smiled. Surely she has not been ingenuous with me: she loves the happy Wilmot, and I have no hope. But if that is the case, I will be revenged: no power on earth shall tear her from me, without resistance. The servant informed them the horses were ready: the gentlemen took a polite leave, and bore their lovely prize in triumph from my sight. Her appearance on horseback was enchanting: the horse was snowy white; over his back was flung a green silk net. Proud of his beauteous load, he pawed the ground, and shook his flowing mane.

I sighed

I sighed at her departure ; and passed a melancholy day : tormented with jealous fears, I dreaded lest Sir Edward should, in my absence, make a lasting impression on the heart of Miss Belville. Oh, Montague ! I never loved before : this infinitely exceeds all I ever experienced. I expressed my fears to my sister ; she assured me I might depend on the veracity of Adeline ; and rather thought her preference appeared in my favour. In this idea, self approbation assisted, and I gave credit to what was so pleasing. You shall hear, from time to time, how I proceed ; and be assured, nothing within my power shall be omitted to serve you. Remember me to Emilia, and the children : let her have every assistance physic can afford. I would preserve the silly girl, if possible : her strange conduct is amazing ! did she think she should ever have the same passionate lover in me, she once knew me ? These women imagine a man's affections are to be as fixed as fate : but it is not in female merit to keep me constant : not even the charms of the divine Adeline would retain their influence after a time. I should still love her, as long as life was allowed me ; but as to adoring her with the same passionate fondness as now, is entirely out of the question. Tell Miss Ayscough I hold her in the greatest esteem ; and beg, for my sake, and the sake of her children, she will endeavour

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deavour to live : her death would, indeed, give me a sensible shock. Surely, there never was so perverse a woman. What signifies her weeping over the grave of her father and mother, and charging herself with their fate? Were they not very old; and might they not have died, if she had remained under their roof? Endeavour to reason her out of this foolish sorrow, Montague; and inspire her hope, that her father yet lives. She is not certain what is become of him; why should she suppose him dead? Let me hear how you succeed, and believe me your's,

HENRY EVELIN.

Sir JAMES THOMPSON to Captain FREEMER.

Ashley-Park.

TRULY, Charles, you are a mighty clever fellow; I believe too you have the gift of prophecy, which I thought belonged only to the inhabitants of heaven. You tell me you imagine the subsequent part of my confinement will turn out favourable to my wishes: true, I have seen the sweet Harriet; but I will proceed in order.

After much debating and opposition from Miss Betty, it was at last determined the second Miss Thompson should endeavour to gain Mrs. Abinton's consent for her fair daughter's visiting

ing me; accordingly she applied, and was received by that amiable woman in the politest manner, who immediately consented to her request, and promised Miss Abinton should wait on me in the afternoon, provided she had no objection. My aunt Sukey then begged to see the young lady, who was called down; and after some modest hesitation, finding her mother had agreed to her going, good-naturedly ratified the promise she had made, and told my aunt she would be at Ashley-park as early as she pleased. With this charming intelligence she returned to me, who was elated beyond expression, as you may suppose. I was a little vexed with the ill-nature of Miss Betty on this occasion, who finding it would not be in her power to prevent my happiness, went to drink tea with Miss Newton, as is her general custom when she is out of humour. I was resolved to be removed into the dressing-room adjoining my chamber to receive Miss Abinton, and, in spite of all they could say to the contrary, I waited with the most anxious expectation till half past six, and then quite out of patience, was going to dispatch my servant to know what detained them, when they arrived. Mrs. Abinton entered the room first, followed by the blushing Harriet: I arose to meet her. "Sir James, (said the mother of my love) I am happy to see you so much better; I, as well as

my dear girl, have been very uneasy on your account." I kissed her hand: "you overwhelm me, madam, with your goodness; and (continued I, turning to the fair Harriet) may I hope you have been desirous of my life?" "Indeed, Sir James, you may; common humanity would have induced me to wish your recovery, had I not known you; how much that wish is increased you may imagine, when I am under so many obligations to you.—" "Amiable Miss Abinton, (returned I) how I adore you!" She looked amazed, and blushed as red as scarlet. My aunts observed her confusion, and I arose with Mrs. Abinton. "I should be glad to speak a word with you, madam, in the next room (said my eldest aunt) if you will give me leave." They all went away, leaving Harriet, who appeared so much surprised at what had escaped me, as not to observe their departure. At length she raised her eyes, and seeing we were alone, appeared infinitely confused. She looked towards the door several times, as if she wished to get away from me, and at last, in a trembling voice, uttered these words, which were hardly to be understood: "Sir James, what is become of the ladies?" "They are gone out to settle some business, madam; but is my company so very disagreeable to you, as to make you wish to leave me so soon? if that is the case, I am in-
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dead wretched." "You do me injustice, sir, if you imagine your company is disagreeable to me; far from it; I rejoice in your amended health, and would do all in my power to make you happy, instead of wretched." "Then I am so, (replied I). Ah, my amiable Harriet, I have for some time loved you with a passion pure and disinterested as your lovely self: this painful secret would have been long since revealed, had I not feared I was indifferent to your heart, and perhaps might forfeit your valuable society if I declared my sensations: speak, madam; say if I have offended you, and tell me generously if I may hope you will in time look upon me with compassion." "A declaration so unexpected, Sir James, I must acknowledge, surprizes me: I thought you esteemed me as a friend, but had not an idea I was looked on in any other light." "Have then my eyes been so very false to the feelings of my heart? Those intelligent orbs should have long ago informed you of this secret, had they expressed their master's tumults: but, my beloved Harriet, you do not tell me what I am to hope. Be assured, madam, great as your perfections are, you will not meet a man who loves you more tenderly than myself." "This is a subject, Sir James, (answered the dear girl) I have not been used to, and I am incapable of talking on it; I esteem your merit as

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I ought; I have long known and admired it; what can I say more?" "Your mother shall be immediately informed of my love, my angel; she will perhaps allow me to aspire to the heart of her daughter, that valuable heart, that had I worlds I would give them to be possessed of. May I not hope my application to Mrs. Abinton will not be disagreeable to you? for as the happiness of my life depends upon you, you are the only person that can pronounce my fate." What can I say, Sir James? I would not deceive you." "It will not be disagreeable." "You merit the regard of the most amiable woman upon earth; but perhaps I am doing wrong; I am not used to disguise my heart; indeed I would not willingly make you unnecessarily uneasy." "Thank you, my dearest girl, I will no longer distress you; I see I am not hated; that knowledge makes me happy. If your amiable mother will give her consent to our union, I shall be blessed indeed; my heart, my fortune, all shall be my Harriet's; I wish for nothing but her charming self." "You are too generous, Sir James; how shall I ever merit this excess of tenderness?" "You more than merit it," returned I: "I am not worthy the infinite perfections you possess; but it shall be the whole study of my life hereafter to render myself more deserving

ing the beauty and accomplishments of my adored Harriet."

The ladies entering the room prevented her reply. She appeared confused and looked down. I strove by every fond attention to banish her dejection, and at last succeeded: her lovely eyes were at length lifted up, and she recovered her tranquillity. We passed the most agreeable day I ever spent in my life: I promised my Harriet I would wait on her mother, and make my love known to her, which I did, and had the happiness of having my proposals accepted. Miss Abinton appears quite happy; and as for myself, I am almost mad with joy. I am as well as ever, and more lively I think; my happiness is indeed exquisite. Ah, Free-mer, I knew not the delights that attended a sincere and honourable attachment; I receive more real pleasure from the innocent proofs my Harriet gives of her affection, than all the studied forwardness the most practised coquette could bestow: the love I bear this dear girl, stimulates me to all that is good and laudable; mine is an affection of the soul, tender and delicate as her snowy mind. I admire, and am in raptures at the sight of her beauty, but 'tis her understanding I love; her virtue and sweetness hold my heart in fetters so strong, that nothing but death can ever disunite them. Mrs. Abinton has given me free leave to visit

her daughter, but will not consent I shall marry her 'till next summer: what an age to a man in love! I have endeavoured to move her resolution, but in vain; she says her child has not yet seen any thing of life; that she shall behold the scenes in which she is to move before she takes the cares of a married state upon her; she is to go to London in the winter, and be with a friend on whom she doats.

As I found it was not possible to prevail on Mrs. Abinton, I was obliged to consent to this tedious delay. Harriet coincided in her mother's determination, but from a different motive. "I shall grow more worthy of you, Sir James, (said the dear creature to me) by being conversant with the world; my rustic manners will wear off, and I shall not make you ashamed of me." "Ashamed of thee, my Harriet! ah, that can never be! I shall glory, I shall boast of my unequalled charmer to the whole world, and be the envy of all the male part of it. You will find in the gay metropolis far more amiable men than me, and perhaps you may change your affections, and kill me by giving them to some other." "Indeed, Sir James, (answered she) the man lives not whom I should ever think your superior; if I was to love you like my Adeline, I would forever remain a stranger to love." I pressed her to my heart, and thanked her for her goodness.

I am

I am to introduce her to my aunts to-morrow in form, as my intended bride; the sweet apprehensive charmer is fearful they will not honour her with their approbation, but I am convinced they will all regard her as the greatest acquisition to their family, of whom they are very proud; I said all, but I am not sure of Miss Betty; she has not forgiven me yet for my behaviour between her and Mr. Fracture, against whom she expresses the most violent resentment, and perhaps to be revenged, she may disapprove my choice; but I care not what she thinks; I am too happy to value the displeasure of any body. What a change in one short week! I hope no clouds will intervene to cast a gloom on my joys. I enquired of Miss Abinton the surname of the lady she had called Adeline; she told me it was Belville, and I find the friend of my Harriet is no other than the daughter of Sir Edward Belville, the beloved companion of thy Louisa. I was greatly delighted at this discovery; the commencement of their acquaintanee was at school. These three ladies have from that time maintained a constant correspondence and affection for each other, and it is with Miss Belville my Harriet is to pass next winter. I am very happy she is the friend of the lovely Adeline; such a woman is capable of improving any one she honours with her friend-

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ship; and was Miss Abinton not the most accomplished of her sex, she would not be regarded in so tender a manner by Miss Belville.

Adieu; I am glad you are more content than you was. May each hour add to your felicity, wishes from the bottom of his heart, your ever sincerely devoted

JAMES THOMPSON.

Miss BELVILLE to Miss ABINTON.

Myrtle Grove:

YOUR silence, my dear Harriet, at this time, fills me with a thousand fears. You left off in your last just as you were going to Ashley-Park. Write the moment you have this, if you have not wrote before, and ease the apprehensions of thy Adeline. I promised to give you an account of the day we spent at Belmont-Abbey; I have not found time to do so till now. I informed you the Earl and Sir Edward came to fetch me: they were in high spirits. When we came within sight of the Abbey, I saw Charlotte galloping towards us, and the Colonel following. As soon as she came near enough to be heard, she exclaimed, "My dear Adeline, I am glad you are come, I have been trying to avoid the impertinence of that creature, but he had just overtaken me when I espied you." The Colonel now arrived in

in the greatest fright. "For heaven's sake, Miss Duncannon," said he, "do not hazard your life by riding so fast; you may destroy yourself one day or other." "Well, if I do, the fault would be none of mine, if you will ride so near me as to frighten my horse." Upon my word, Miss Belville, he had like to have thrown me off just now by coming directly in my way; had I not been a good horsewoman, he would have succeeded; and then you would have been hanged, Medway; that would have been one comfort, however." "Fie, Charlotte," said your Adeline, "surely, this is ungenerous." "Indeed it is," replied my Lord, "Cruel to a degree," said Sir Edward. "And to me distressing," answered the Colonel, with a sigh. "Very well, good folks: ungenerous, cruel and distressing; have you any more to add? if not, I shall march off." Before we could answer, she whipped her horse, and away she flew. The Colonel was in agonies. I never saw a woman ride so well in my life. She took a circle round, and returned. "As you did not attempt to follow me, you see I am come back; I shall bring you to order at last, I hope; come, Colonel, do not be foolish now; I forgive your rebellion, and again admit you into the service, providing you obey commands for the future." "My dearest love, let your commands be but mild, and I will im-

plicitly obey them. But why, my amiable Charlotte, will you pain a heart that adores you?"

"Oh heavens, George, let's have no whining; your face was not made for pathos. I never saw a more exact resemblance of a monkey in my life, when you attempt sorrowing expression." He drew near to her and whispered, Sir Edward approached me; "Ah, madam, why is not Charlotte possessed of your charming sensibility? She would not treat poor George as she does, did her heart yield to soft sensations." "You wrong Miss Duncannon, Sir Edward, she has a heart feelingly alive to the tender calls of pity; the only instance I ever saw of the least tendency to cruelty, is her behaviour to the Colonel: he deserves better from her; and I do believe, if he was not so much affected with her lively sallies, he would do more with her; it proceeds not from ill nature, only an overliveliness of disposition that has had no misfortunes to curb it." I could not avoid sighing; he observed it. "Why sighs Miss Belville? what can have made you uneasy? Tell me, madam; and if I can remedy it, I would go to the farthest part of the globe to serve you." "I thank you, Sir Edward, but the cause of that sigh is not in the power of you to remedy." "No! would to heaven it were. He fixed his speaking eyes on my face; those eyes so similar to my Augustus's; I could not

not

not avoid dropping a tear to his memory.

"My amiable Adeline, for heaven's sake, explain the cause of that tear; tell me what this emotion means, unless you will drive me to madness."

"From a painful recollection, Sir Edward, answered I, and a likeness I saw in you, at that moment, to a person whose remembrance is infinitely dear to me: nothing else was the cause of my sorrow. But it is past, and all is well again."

"What is that which is so well, Adeline, between you and Sir Edward?" cried Miss Duncannon.

"No great matter, Charlotte; but suppose it should be a secret, and I don't chuse to tell you."

"Ay, but you must, if it is a secret; nobody alive is so fond of a secret as I am, there is such fun in disclosing it."

We had a most agreeable ride; and as it grew late, I proposed returning, which was immediately agreed to; and we were preparing to quit the beautiful prospect we had been viewing, when the sky was suddenly overcast, and it began to rain violently. As we were in sight of no house, we were obliged to ride as quick as possible, which we did for about a mile, when we espied a neat cottage that stood a little out of the road. The Earl rode up, and knocked at the door, but nobody answered. Quite out of patience, he swore like an emperor; when Miss Duncannon went to the window, and

and rapped with her whip; still no person appeared. Sir Edward hallooed through the key-hole, and begged to be let in: a feeble female voice answered "she could not open the door, as she did not know who they were." Sir Edward assured her she need not fear any harm would happen to her, as they were gentlemen, and would not have disturbed her if they had not ladies with them, who, they feared, would catch cold. "Come, come, Goody," said the laughing Charlotte, "though we have a soldier with us, you need not fear, his courage will not hurt you; I engage to make him quiet. "God bless me, madam," answered the voice, "I would not have a soldier come into my house for the world; I have got a young woman here." The gentlemen and Charlotte laughed ready to kill themselves; and she answered, "You need not be afraid for the young woman, as here are two old ones who will take care of her." After much intreaty, she opened the door, and we all entered the cottage, which was very small and neat. The poor woman seemed amazed at seeing so many fine folks, and curtsied very awkwardly; begged our pardon for her rudeness: "but there are so many sharpers about, ladies," continued she, "that I could not tell." "No, to be sure, good woman," returned Charlotte, "and you was quite right to hesitate, when you found there was a soldier

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a soldier among us." "Why ay, and please your ladyship, soldiers are sad men very often: if it had not been for one of them, I might have had my poor dear Sally alive at this day; but this was not the only reason that prevented my letting you in directly; for I have a poor young creature here that is very melancholy, I did not chuse to let any body know she was with me, as she desired me not." "You can keep a secret near as well as I," replied Charlotte; but if you please, "I will dry my plumes: here, dry my hat, George." He took it and held it to the fire.

I turned to the old woman, "did you not say the lady in your house was melancholy? I should be glad to see this poor mourner, if it was not impertinent; but take no notice to the gentlemen, or that lady, and I will step up stairs, and just look at her; perhaps I may be able to assist her." I saw Charlotte was deeply engaged with the Colonel, and that I was not observed. I stepped out of the room, up half a dozen stairs, and entered a very small, but neat chamber, at the end of which sat a lovely girl, seemingly about eighteen; with a young infant in her lap, which she was bedewing with her tears. I drew near her before she saw me, so intent was she on her melancholy employment. "Pardon me, madam; I meant not to intrude on your sorrows; but I heard you
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was in distress; and perhaps it may be in my power to relieve you." "Whoever you are, madam," answered she, "I am infinitely obliged to you. I am indeed in distress, for this poor infant has not tasted any thing but a little pap, made by the charitable woman below, out of her small pittance, for three whole days. The little money I had is gone; and I must prepare to die, without pity or relief." "Compose yourself," said I, "madam; I hope there is some benevolence yet in the world. However I may be unable to remove your misfortunes, I am at least capable of supplying your wants. There is all the money I have about me: be assured I will see you ere long; and contrive some means to extricate you from this miserable situation." The sight of my gold struck her dumb: she took my hand, and held it to her lips, but could not speak. I feared they would wonder at my absence; and told her I must leave her for the present, as I had company below: she bowed in silence, and I quitted the room. Nobody knew I had been gone out of it, but the old woman, to whom I recommended the care of her guest in a whisper, and, as the weather was fine, we remounted our horses, and returned to the abbey. My thoughts were so taken up with the unhappy object I had seen, that I appeared absent and forgetful. Charlotte more than once observed it; as did the

the gentlemen; but I attributed it to a violent head-ach, which I really had. Sir Edward endeavoured to console me in the tenderest manner, and I was sorry I had mentioned my indisposition, it made them so very unhappy. While we were at tea a letter was brought to the Colonel, who appeared very much hurt on reading it. Charlotte arose, and came to me, crying aloud, "I will be hanged, Adeline, if that is not a letter from some mistress of his, he looks so ashamed of it." "No, my dear Charlotte, but it is from my master. I am commanded to join my regiment: the King demands my service, and I must leave England." I observed Miss Duncannon change colour at these words: but she strove to conceal her emotions; and addressed him with an appearance of composure. "And are you obliged to leave England, Colonel Medway?" "I certainly must, if the regiment is ordered abroad, madam, which the Captain writes me word is generally thought will be the case. But it signifies not, Miss Duncannon, what becomes of me. I may as well fall by the hands of an enemy, as die by your cruelty." These words seemed to affect her; she pulled out her handkerchief, and throwing her arms about my neck, sobbed aloud. Her mother, my Lord, and Sir Edward left the room: I would have done so, but she held me. The Colonel arose,

and took her hand. "Are these precious tears shed for me, my Charlotte?" She sighed, and looking at him, "ah, Medway! you must despise me; I have not merited your love: but forgive me; I may never see you again, perhaps." Her emotions stopped her speech, and she was ready to faint. "Ask not my forgiveness, my adored Charlotte: you have never offended me. I only have been to blame; and have construed your innocent vivacity into cruelty: do you, my love, forgive me, and I am happy." "You are a very generous man, George; and I do not deserve so tender an affection: but I will endeavour, for the future, to pay more regard to you, if it should please heaven to keep you in England." "I hope it will, for thy sake, my dear Charlotte," answered the Colonel; "I am ready to serve my King at any time; but if it pains you I shall do it with regret." Finding Miss Duncannon pretty well recovered, I left the room, and sought the rest of the company, who were all together in Charlotte's dressing room, lamenting the Colonel's orders. I related what had passed; Mrs. Duncannon expressed great pleasure at Charlotte's sensibility: "but (continued she, with a sigh) I fear, as soon as her terrors are over for his safety, she will relapse into her former flights." "Yet, madam," replied Sir Edward, "if that should be the case, the
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the Colonel will have a satisfaction he had not before; this tender concern of Miss Duncannon will convince him he is beloved; that thought will support him in all his troubles, and he will bear her little levities with patience. As I found my head grew worse, I declined Mrs. Duncannon's invitation to supper; but accepted the offer of her coach, as I was too much fatigued to ride on horseback. Accordingly, I set out for the grove, attended by the Earl and Sir Edward. We got there about nine in the evening, and the gentlemen took their leave, promising to enquire after my health the next day. Sir Harry expressed great satisfaction at my return, and would have engaged me in conversation, but I begged to be excused, as I was very much tired. Mrs. Evelin (who is ever desirous to oblige me) attended me to my chamber, where she left me to enjoy the blessings of repose, as I will you, my Harriet; for I think this long letter has tired you. Be sure, my beloved girl, you do not forget to write, as I am really uneasy at your silence. My best respects attend your mother, and believe I am, with the truest affection,

Your's,

ADELINE BELVILLE.

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Miss ABINTON to Miss BELVILLE.

Elmwood.

I Am sorry my amiable Adeline has suffered any uneasiness from my silence; but I have been too much engaged, to write. Oh, my friend, I am beloved by Sir James: yes, he does love thy Harriet; he has long in secret loved her. I am happier than I can express. No longer am I obliged to restrain my tenderness; no longer wear an appearance my heart disavows. That day, my Adeline, that charming day, he owned his flame, my spirits were too much affected to allow me to give a description of the scene; only I know he begged me to permit him to make an application to my mother. I could not refuse him; my honest heart spoke in my eyes, and told him he was loved. Unaccustomed to disguise, I could not conceal my feelings, when I found they might be indulged without a crime. Accordingly, he made his proposals to my mama, and received her approbation. She told him he might employ every opportunity to gain my affections for some time to come: "For, Sir James," said this excellent parent, "my Harriet as yet is far too young and inexperienced to think of marriage: true, I believe, she looks upon you
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with a tender regard, but she may change; (What an idea, Adeline!) she has not yet seen any thing of the world, and is entirely ignorant of the sphere in which she is to move. I would not have my child appear in a station she is not qualified to shine in. I have endeavoured to furnish her mind with every good and useful knowledge; and I may be allowed to say my Harriet is inferior to few in most valuable accomplishments; yet, (continued she) there is something more: the world can never be known by books or representation; a certain elegance of manner will be wanting, which nothing but a commerce with mankind can give, and an association with people of a polite and gay turn: this, she has never had an opportunity of doing. Immured in the country, her observations have been very confined; I therefore wish her, before she takes upon her the cares and troubles inseparable from a wedded state, to see and know more of the world. Let one year longer pass before she is a wife; and if she looks upon you as she does at present, I shall rejoice to give her to you." I was absent when this passed; but my mama related the conversation to me. She said she found a great difficulty in persuading him to subscribe to these opinions; but, on her being peremptory, he did. I am to pass a winter with my Adeline, before I commence matron. May

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your amiable example and excellent advice render your Harriet more deserving the love of Sir James. His apprehensions removed, he is ten times more agreeable than ever. Surely, my gentle Miss Belville, I shall be too happy with such a lover. A mother kind and indulgent as mine, and a friend like my Adeline, what have I to wish? May I be properly sensible of the goodness of providence, and ever be thankful for the many blessings I enjoy! Ah, my friend; would I could see you agitated as tenderly for the amiable Sir Edward, as I am for Sir James. There is something in his fate that affects me extremely. I am sorry he is and must be unhappy. His determined love will, I fear, never decrease. But I will not pain your generous bosom. I often plead for him when I mean not to do it: my pen involuntarily moves in his favour, and I reflect not at that moment, my Adeline approves not my warmth. I am greatly interested in the fortune of the unhappy inhabitant of the cottage; omit not to write me her melancholy story, if you should be acquainted with it. I congratulate you, my Adeline, on this new opportunity of exercising your benevolent disposition. Oh, how great, how godlike, to wipe the sorrowing eye of misery's children, drive keen distress and horrid want far from the lowly cot; and, by a tender, generous participation, heal and alleviate the misfortunes you

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cannot remove! Perhaps this mourning fair
one weeps her honour betrayed; betrayed by
him she loves! Oh, cruelty augmented! What
can assuage the wretched mourner's woe?

Despis'd by all, by fatal love undone,
In vain her tearful eye for pity pleads;
Her fate, the proudly virtuous will shun,
Tho' with remorse her pensive bosom bleeds.

Look up, sad mourner, see where one appears;
The gentle Adeline will ease thy grief:
Her generous hand will wipe thy flowing tears,
And mild benevolence will grant relief.

Yes, my dear Miss Belville, you are too nobly good to discard this wretched fair, though her present misery may have been brought on her by her own weakness and credulity. We are all frail. You can allow for failings incident to our nature; though you have by uncommon prudence and strength of mind, escaped any material errors; yet, alas! there are too many now sinking under them.

I am sorry the agreeable Medway is obliged to join his regiment; but yet, for one reason, I am glad this circumstance happened, as it has
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convinced him Miss Duncannon loves him. Oh, how cruel to play with the heart of one that adores her! But I hope the lively Charlotte will hereafter treat him better. I am interested in their fate. I wish I could make every body happy. I am so exquisitely happy myself that I would impart my sensations to all the world.

I find Sir James is well acquainted with Captain Fremer. He tells me that an unreserved friendship subsists between them. We talked over his unfortunate love, and gave a sigh to his wandering Louisa. "My Harriet," said he, "I know not a man living that better deserves to be happy than Fremer; and yet, how have his wishes been crossed? how much more fortunate am I without being near so worthy, blessed with the affections of the best and most beautiful of her sex!" Thus, Adeline, does this amiable man talk continually, raising the few merits I possess beyond their real value. I am to be introduced to his aunts in form; as they will not dispense with any thing of that sort, especially the youngest, I am half afraid of them in the light of relations. Sir James assures me I am infinitely regarded by them already. I hope I shall never, by any imprudence, forfeit that regard. I am very impatient to hear of our Louisa; do not delay informing me of her welfare, if you should have

have a letter. I must leave you; my mother and Sir James wait for me to take an airing.

Ever your's,

HARRIET ABINTON.

Miss BELVILLE to Miss ABINTON.

Myrtle-Grove.

I Conrratulate you, my dearest Harriet, on the happiness of your present prospects; may no cloud of adversity intervene to disturb your felicity, but all your days be one continued scene of heart-felt joy and smiling content! your lover is truly deserving the affection you feel for him.

On the receipt of your letter I wrote to Captain Freemer; and mentioned Sir James. He informed me he was the most agreeable and worthy of his sex; the friendly, good and generous heart was his: once more receive my congratulations, my Harriet, on your happiness. Once such a prospect opened to your Adeline; but oh, how fatally was it obscured! my heart sustains a pang too exquisite to bear at every thought of my Augustus; no, never talk to me of Sir Edward; I shall still remain true to the memory of Mr. Grenville, nor shall that love so wholly his, be ever given to another. I know the deserving Wilmot has merits, but they cannot make any impression on a heart

heart whose every tender sensations were center'd in one dear object, and with him lie buried; no, were it possible for me to love again, I should detest myself: where shall I find the equal of Augustus? Cease then, my amiable Harriet, cease to mention the name of Sir Edward and love together, if you wish me content and comfort. Forgive me for obtruding my melancholy thoughts at this time upon you, but I cannot always suppress them; I would not occasion a single painful idea to you, were it possible to conquer myself entirely; but you shall be no longer troubled with my uneasiness. You are interested in the fate of the family at the Abbey; I will inform you of what has passed since I wrote last. Yesterday as I was sitting at breakfast, the following note was brought me from Mrs. Duncannon:

“ I should be infinitely obliged to my dear
 “ Miss Belville if she would favour us with
 “ her company at the Abbey to dinner, to assist
 “ in comforting my poor Charlotte; the Co-
 “ lonel is obliged to leave us to-day, and her
 “ grief is excessive: she fears he will be or-
 “ dered abroad. Come, my amiable Adeline,
 “ and by your excellent reasonings bring my
 “ child to be contented with her fate.

“ Affectionately your's,

“ CAROLINE DUNCANNON.”

Ah, my Harriet, what reasons could I employ strong enough to banish the fears of love? I sent word I would attend her in half an hour, which I accordingly did. Sir Harry insisted I would permit him to convey me in his chariot; he was infinitely entertaining and agreeable. He set me down at the Abbey, and returned to Myrtle Grove, saying he would do himself the honour of calling for me in the evening. As my visit was of such a nature I could not ask him to stay, I therefore begged he would order the servants not to drive up to the house, but let me walk from the top of the avenue. Ever ready to oblige me, he immediately consented, and left me at the entrance of it. I saw Sir Edward walking pensively under the trees, and came quite close to him ere he perceived me. "What meditations are you so deeply engaged in, Sir Edward?" "Bless me, Miss Belville! I thought it impossible you could have been so soon here. How kind to hasten thus to your lamenting friend! but you are all goodness, (continued he, sighing, and looking attentively in my face). Ah, Miss Belville! I cannot preserve the silence I had enjoined myself; pity me, madam, for heaven's sake pity me; I love you more than ever; it is not possible to avoid it; I am distracted; would to heaven I were dead! were it not for the crime, I would myself end my miserable
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being." His looks were frantick; he seized my hand----" Why are you so cruel; tell me, Adeline, why are you so cruel? why will you break my heart, a heart that adores you!"

His manly eyes were filled with tears; he looked miserable. I could hardly speak, so much was I affected with his sorrow. At last I got out these words: "Alas, Sir Edward, how can you alarm me with these sudden gusts of passion? have you not heard my fixed determination? how then can you indulge a fatal prepossession that must render you unhappy?—Call your reason to your aid, and conquer this hopeless love that thus imbitters your life."

"Ah! said you conquer it? no, my adored Adeline, while I exist, I never shall be able to conquer my affections; my heart is your's, irrevocably your's; each day, each hour, I find my love increase; I cannot live without you; I have endeavoured, but I find I cannot." "You must, Sir Edward: have I not told you I have no heart to give you? you have forgot your promises, your friendship, for Lord Arundel: will then Sir Edward Wilmot suffer his honour to be conquered by his passions? Recollect yourself, my dear, my justly valued friend, and not force me to give up your acquaintance by this mad perseverance." He sighed, and gently taking my hand in his, was silent a moment; at length, raising his eyes, and

and looking on me with the utmost steadfastness, "Will you forgive me, Miss Belville; will you not deprive me of your esteem?" "From my heart I forgive you, Sir Edward; you are as much esteemed as ever by me." "Irresistible girl, (said he, raising my hand to his lips) I will no more offend you, though I die for it; pardon my phrenzy; but I am not myself at times." "Say no more of it, sir; we will now seek Miss Duncannon."

He led me in silence to the door of Charlotte's dressing-room, and hastily retired to hide his emotion. I wiped a tear from my eye, and entered the apartment. I found my friend sitting pensively by herself. She arose at my appearance; "how infinitely kind, Adeline! (said she) alas! you are come to behold a sad parting; Colonel Medway is going!" She burst into tears; I mingled mine with her's, glad of this opportunity to ease my oppressed heart. "Yes, Miss Belville, my poor George is going, I may never again behold him! what, what will become of me?" "Be comforted, Miss Duncannon, (answered I) 'tis true the Colonel is going to leave you, but perhaps only for a short time; he may not go abroad; why then should you thus distress yourself with ideal fears? For heaven's sake preserve more resolution; sink not under this separation: if he were dead, you could not be

more unhappy. Reflect, Charlotte, that this violence of grief, and only on an apprehended evil, is weak and cowardly; 'tis doubting the care and goodness of providence; he may, nay I dare say will, return in safety." "Ah, Adeline, (interrupted she) you do not love; you have not had the heart-felt trial of parting with an amiable man, perhaps to see him no more! Talk not of comfort to me; if I should lose him, I am deprived of every comfort." "My dear Charlotte, (answered I) you do not know what trials I have undergone: I have had the painful task of taking a final leave of the man on whom I doated; have seen the most amiable of his sex breathless, and yet have borne it! I once determined this should remain a profound secret in my own bosom, and in the bosoms of those who were witness to my melancholy struggles; but for your sake, Miss Duncannon, I have broke through this determination, and surely woes so superior to your's, will comfort you." She looked on me for some time in speechless wonder; "And have you, indeed, Adeline, supported a loss like this? Forgive me, my amiable girl, despise not my weakness. Alas, Miss Belville, I did not know the serious disposition you possess had a misfortune so great for its basis; you shall see I will profit by your magnanimity; I will meet the Colonel with tolerable composure,

sure, and part with him as well as I can."

"I do not expect you to conquer the tender feelings which tear your gentle heart, (answered I) only bring them within bounds; remember you occasion a thousand disagreeable pangs to your lover by this excess of grief."

I brought her at last to a tranquil turn of mind, and we sought the gentlemen and Mrs. Duncannon. At the sight of the Colonel, who was dressed for travelling, I saw the tears start in her eyes: she soon recovered herself, and we passed the hours before dinner pretty well. Lord Arundel endeavoured by every method in his power to divert the general despondency that reigned; as to poor Sir Edward, he was as melancholy and absent as any of us. After dinner Charlotte arose, and came across the room to me. "Adeline, (said she) the time draws near, you shall see how well I will behave." She returned to her seat: the Colonel arose, and walked to the window. I was very much affected, as we were all. He several times attempted to speak, but seemed at a loss for words. At length he addressed himself to Mrs. Duncannon: "the favours I have received from you, madam, since I have been an inhabitant of this happy mansion, as well as at all other times, call for my warmest acknowledgments: impute it not to a want of gratitude that I have not been more explicit.

on this head before; I am truly sensible of your goodness, and shall retain the highest respect and regard for you to the latest moment of my life." He stopped, and again walked to the window. "Talk not of acknowledgments I beseech you, Colonel, (replied she) your company has been a real satisfaction; let me hear immediately when you get to town in what manner you are situated, and if your honour will permit your re-appearance at Belmont-abbey, it would make us all happy." He kissed her hand, and bowed in silence. Mrs. Duncannon pulled out her handkerchief; I believe there was not a dry eye in the room but Charlotte's; she had drained the sluices of her tears, and they now refused to flow: she appeared the most striking image of woe I ever beheld. We heard the trampling of horses in the yard; Charlotte started; the Colonel came to her and took her hand; "will you not write to me, my amiable, love?" said he. She bowed her head. "Ten thousand thanks, my Charlotte, I am the happiest man alive." She cast her eyes on him with the most expressive look, but spoke not. He quitted her, and approached Mrs. Duncannon; "farewell, my dearest madam; words are too weak to express my feelings for your goodness. My amiable Miss Belville, I am under many obligations to you; may you be happy." He kissed my
cheek;

cheek; my tears flowed apace; yet was Charlotte's dry. She stood motionless observing the Colonel. He shook the gentlemen by the hand: "Arundel, adieu; farewell, Sir Edward; forget not your friend." He turned to Charlotte; "ay, here is the tryal, (said he, with visible emotion) adieu, my dear girl." He threw his arms about her; she sunk down on the sofa: "Oh, Medway, Medway! this is too much, I cannot bear this!" Her colour fled, and she fell back lifeless. The Colonel was little better; we were all alarmed; she continued a considerable time insensible; at last she shewed signs of life. Mrs. Duncannon begged the Colonel to go now, lest a second parting should throw her daughter into another fit. He once more embraced the almost lifeless Charlotte, and suffered Lord Arundel and Sir Edward to lead him out of the room. After a little while Sir Edward returned, and told me the Colonel begged to speak with me. I gave him my hand. When we came into the parlour, poor Medway was walking up and down in the greatest disorder. He flew to me; "how is my Charlotte, Miss Belville; quite recovered?" "Upon my word, Colonel, she thinks you are gone." "Then I must not see her again?" "You had better not, (answered I) it may be too much for her." "Oh, I must see her, Miss

Belville! suffer me just to look on her but once more, and I will be satisfied." "Nay, prithee George," said Sir Edward, "consider, you may hurt her; you had better not." "Well, I will not.---Farewell, my dear friends! take care of my love!" he drew out his handkerchief, and threw himself into the chaise, which was out of sight in a minute. We returned to the dining room; but Charlotte was gone to her own chamber. I went to her; she was in bed: "Adeline," said she, "I have not preserved my resolution: I am very weak." "You did very well, my love;" answered I, "but you had better compose yourself: I will send to know how you do to-morrow." I embraced her, and returned to the dining room; Sir Harry was there. "How is this, Miss Belville?" said he, "your charming eyes have paid a large tribute of tears this day, to the misfortunes of your friend. 'Tis a just observation, my Lord, that beauty is never so irresistible as in tears." "Miss Belville is irresistible at all times, Sir Harry;" answered the Earl, "but peculiarly so, when such enchanting sensibility is added to her other graces." Sir Edward sighed. Tired of this complimentary strain, I told Sir Harry I waited his leisure: he arose: I left my compliments for Mrs. Duncannon, and took my leave. When we were seated in the carriage, he endeavoured to enter
into

into a particular conversation; but I studiously avoided it, alledging, as was truly the case, my spirits were too much depressed to suffer me to talk. He ceased to importune me; and imperceptibly, led my thoughts from the melancholy scene that employed them, to more pleasing reflexions. I never knew a man in my life so entirely capable of engaging the attention as Sir Harry. He exerted so many efforts to please me, that I was quite ashamed to occasion him so much trouble. I thanked him for his endeavours to banish my gloomy ideas; and expressed my concern I could not be more chearful. He seemed quite happy with this acknowledgment; and we soon after arrived at the grove: I retired to my apartment as soon as we came in. I must break off here; I am interrupted: I will resume my pen before I send this away; and inform you something more of the unhappy cottager.

Your's ever,

ADELINE BELVILLE.

Miss BELVILLE to Miss ABINTON.

(In Continuation.)

Myrtle-Grove.

WHEN I arose the next morning, I sent old William to enquire after the health of Miss Duncannon, and the rest of the family, and

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betook myself to the breakfast parlour. I found Sir Harry there: he enquired after my health with the greatest earnestness. "I have been anxious all night for your safety, Miss Belville," said he, "those violent emotions will hurt your gentle frame." "I have been used, Sir Harry, to violent emotions all my life: many are the losses I have sustained; I shall not be injured by fits of woe, they are too familiar." He took my hand, "would it were in my power to preserve you safe from every disagreeable emotion; I would do it at the hazard of my life." "I thank you, sir; but nothing you could do, or any one else, would remove my disagreeable thoughts, and painful reflexions: but I have learned to bear them; and it is only sometimes I find myself yield to sensations of sorrow." "Why, Miss Belville, do you talk in this strain? what can have happened to embitter your days thus early? A stranger to every sort of ill, no heart glows with more amiable virtues than your's; why, then, are you so seriously sad? Suffer youth to assert its privileges; and give your days to joy and love; you that are formed for the most extatic felicity our nature is capable of enjoying! why then waste your days in fruitless lamentation over the tombs of those who are departed? (for this, I conjecture, my charming Adeline, is the cause of your grief.)" "In that you are right,

right, Sir Harry; but do not mistake me: I have lost some justly valued friends: but yet, heaven forbid I should waste my days in vain lamentations for what the unerring hand of wisdom has ordained: I should then be unworthy of the many blessings the bounteous goodness of providence has spared me. I feel the loss of those I love, but I am resigned; I am not properly unhappy. All the difference you behold in me, is only that I see the vanity of human dependance rather sooner than the generality of the world; and by a peculiarity of circumstances, have contracted a serious turn, not common to persons of my age and sex. Thus, Sir Harry, may I be said to be happier than the rest of mankind, and for this reason,---I know, by experience, that the enjoyments of life are transient, and of little value; therefore I set a small dependance on them, and by being prepared for their deprivation, I have an advantage others have not, who look forward in the full tide of youth and prosperity to a long continuation of their felicity; and when their high-raised hopes are suddenly dashed, they become impatient and uneasy under the unavoidable casualties of life. Now, the goodness of heaven has taught me, by an early acquaintance with adversity, to look forwards for happiness in a world superior to this; and in order to obtain it, has placed me here;

has

has blessed me with the gifts of fortune, and by so distinguishing me, has enabled me to do good to others. May I ever deserve the favours I have received, and I am assured of a reward surpassing my most sanguine wishes." "And is it possible, Miss Belville," replied Sir Harry, "that a lady of your years can be this philosopher? does life, and all its allurements appear in this point of view to a woman hardly twenty? why, then, do men spend their whole lives in laborious speculations, to obtain the reputation of philosophers, when at last all they gain is a sour, ill-natured temper, which snarls at the rest of the world; and because they will not enjoy life themselves, they will, by growling, imbitter the the happiness of others? But in you we see philosophy, and universal philanthropy: how amiable! how extraordinary! why, Miss Belville, are you so much superior to the rest of the world? you create the admiration of all who see you; and engage their love: all must love you." He sighed, and took my hand, "yes, charming Adeline; all must adore you." I was going to answer him, but Mrs. Evelyn came into the room. "How do you do, my dear Adeline?" said she, "I hope you have recovered your fatigue? I beg your pardon, Sir Harry; I fear I have exhausted your patience, but I will make the breakfast immediately." "How could I be tired, sister, in company with

with this sweet girl? No, had you stayed an hour longer, I should not have thought of breakfast." "Very gallant, upon my word, Sir Harry," answered she, "you improve, I think." "Yes, madam," cried your Adeline, "Sir Harry Evelin is indeed a man of gallantry." He was going to reply, when William entered, from the Abbey.---"Well, William, how are the ladies?" "Why, my good young madam, they are pretty well: Miss Charlotte is tolerably recovered: but I have a letter for you, from Sir Edward Wilmot. I could not help taking it: he came to me, and said, "honest William, here is a letter for the loveliest woman in the world." "What, my mistress, and please your honour?" (says I) "Ay, (replied he) give it to Miss Belville." "Yes, bless her, (says I,) I will give it her, your honour; and I wish she loved your honour as well as you do her; she is the sweetest lady in the world." "Nay, prithee William," (said I) "Go on, William," interrupted Sir Harry, and Mrs. Evelin, "yes, madam, and so I will; I hope my dear young lady will not be angry: but I do love to praise her.---Well, madam; and so his honour, Sir Edward, told me she was an angel: yes, and please your worship, (says I,) she is indeed; for tho' she is but a chicken, as I may say, yet she does so much good that all the country rings of her charity,

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charity. I have lived with her family from a boy; and never do these old eyes expect to see such another lady. (Here the poor man wiped his eyes.) Nay, for matter of that, she only takes after her father. Sir Edward Belville was the best man and best master in England. I well remember when young madam was born; what joy we had! My master kept open house for a week; and my lady was so well all that time, that there was no end to our joy. Ah, my dear Miss Adeline, (continued he) often have I danced you about before you was so fine a young lady as you are now; and when it pleased God to take your good mother to himself, my poor master was almost distracted. He used to cry all day long, and often has said, if it was not for his pretty Adeline, he should not wish to live. Excuse me, madam, but he was a good master to me: but I have forgot what I was saying about his honour Sir Edward Wilmot; he said he would give ten thousand pounds if my young lady did but love him. He shook me by the hand, and told me he should always regard me for my affection to her, and gave me a guinea: I told him I did not want money, that my mistress always gave me as much as I wished; and besides I had a legacy from her father. He begged I would take it, and, as I did not like to give myself airs, I did. I hope, madam, you are not displeased at it." "Not at all, William," answered

answered I; "I am much obliged to you for the regard you have always shewn me, and shall respect you as your years and faithful services deserve; but you had better go and pull off your boots, for fear you should be too much fatigued." He begged leave kiss my hand, which I very cordially gave him: he lifted it to his lips with the greatest veneration, crying "Heaven bless you, my excellent young lady, never was your equal." He hurried out of the room. I was very much affected with his behaviour, and could not avoid shedding a tear. "Irresistible Miss Belville," said Sir Harry, "how you are beloved! deservedly beloved; you are the best, the most amiable of women!" He seemed in great agitation. I did not wish to renew our former conversation, and turned the discourse. "I will beg leave, madam," said I, "to have my horse got ready; I have a little business to settle at some distance." "Certainly, Miss Belville," answered Mrs. Evelin, rising and ringing the bell. "Will you not permit me the happiness of attending you, madam?" demanded Sir Harry. "I thank you, sir, not to-day; I am going on a distressful errand, and the fewer witnesses there are to misery, the better: one would not pain the oppressed heart, Sir Harry. I will do myself the honour of accepting your offer this afternoon, to the Abbey, if you please." He bowed:

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bowed: "You are all goodness, Miss Belville, I will with pleasure wait on you." I told Mrs. Evelin I should be back to dinner, and retired to dress.

When I was ready, I found William with the horses in the court. "I would not have you go, William," says I; surely the distance will be too much for you." "Why, madam," replied he; do you think I would let you go with any other servant than myself? no, thank God, I am as well as ever I was, and as capable of riding; so, my good young madam, if you will not let me go with you, I will follow you at a distance, and see no harm happens." I found the old man was determined, and therefore consented he alone should attend me. He was infinitely happy; and away we went, William every now and then, fearing I rode too fast.

We arrived at the cottage about twelve o'clock, and I left my horse with him, and walked up to it. The old woman was seated on the sunny side of the door, spinning. "Who do you want, forsooth?" says she. "Do you not know me?" answered I. "Know you? let me look: oh yes, madam, you are the fine beautiful lady that preserved the poor girl from destruction! Know you! yes, heaven bless you, fair madam, I think I ought to know you: come into my poor cottage (continued she), let

me

me say I have had the best creature in the whole world in my house. But I will move this great thing out of the way (shoving her spinning wheel aside), here is not room for your ladyship to come in." "Where is your guest, good woman?" answered I. "I will tell her you are here, madam," said she, going out of the room. She soon returned with the young lady. As she appeared, "Oh, my preserver," exclaimed she, falling at my feet, "how shall I thank you? you have saved an infant from starving; you have eased the anxious, distracted bosom of a mother. Ah! madam, what words can thank you? what gratitude will be sufficient to express my sense of your goodness?" Her tears stopped her proceeding. I held out my hand to raise her. "Rise, I beseech you," said I; "kneel not to me, I am more than paid for the trifle I gave you by these acknowledgments. What have I done more than any one else would have done in such a situation? Compose yourself; I will, if you please, assist you further, I come for that purpose: heaven has blessed me with affluence; I give you only what I should bestow on another: restrain, then, your gratitude for what is your right; I am no more than the agent of heaven. To the supreme power of the universe direct your thanks; 'tis there only you owe them." "Generous lady," exclaimed the poor girl, "you

“you are, indeed, worthy the name of goodness; you follow the bright example of our great creator, and are deservedly distinguished by his blessings.” “If you will permit me, madam,” said I, “to enquire your name, and the particulars of your situation, I may be better enabled to extricate you from your present uneasiness.” She hesitated and blushed: I saw her confusion, and wished to relieve it. “You need not fear any reproaches from me, even if you think you have deserved them. I can pity the foibles of human nature; I have too many myself, to be over rigorous to others: have you no friends?” “Alas! madam,” answered she, “I had many, I fear I have not one now; my own folly has undone me, and I am destitute of every comfort.” She wept and wrung her hands in the greatest agony. I let her tears flow for some time without interruption, till seeing the violence of her grief a little abated, I ventured to address her again. “Whatever your misfortunes may have been, I seek not to know them; I see the recollection of them is painful and disagreeable: consider what way of life you would chuse to adopt, and I will furnish you with money to pursue it; or, if you had rather continue in solitude, inform me what you imagine will support yourself and your child, and I will enable you to stay in this cottage with the comfortable necessities of life,

life, or remove you to any other you like better. Perhaps your friends may not be inexorable. If you will inform me in what manner you have offended them, I will endeavour, by a proper representation of your present penitence, to reconcile them to you; but if the circumstances are such as would pain you to disclose, or you had rather have them totally obliterated, I would not press to know them for the world." "You are intitled, madam," answered she, "to my utmost confidence; but if your goodness would spare me the horrid account, I shall be infinitely happy. As to my friends, I despair of ever being reconciled to them; I have nothing to depend on but your promised bounty; and but for you, my unhappy infant and myself had been beyond the reach of misfortune ere now. Your charity has saved us, madam, from the jaws of death." "No more of that," said I; inform me what you wish, and if I can gratify it, you may depend on me." "The severity of my fortune, madam, renders a thought of happiness vain; all I desire is to be capable of providing necessities for the poor child to whom I have given life. Although I am not hardened enough to recite the whole of my unfortunate life to you, yet I will inform you of some particulars that may account to you for the infant's being here. My friends are honest and worthy people, though

though not dignified by rank or title; my education was good, and I was loved with the greatest fondness by them all, till a fatal accident threw me from their love and protection. I was regarded with the eyes of affection by a man of condition: ignorant of his real character, I trusted to the falseness of his professions, and was fatally undone. Betrayed by my own vanity, I fondly hoped his love might lead him to raise me to his title and fortune; and, in an evil hour, quitted my father's house, and threw myself into his power. Too soon, alas! I found that a distinguished rank was no security against baseness. Deprived of every hope, I was forced to seek an asylum in the arms of my betrayer, and fall the victim of his infamous arts. For a time he preserved the appearance of love; but wearied and disgusted with my tears and complaints, he told me not long since, I must seek some other protector, unless I would receive his bounty as I ought, and be thankful for his care of me. As I was near my time, this cruelty threw me into labour: I brought that little miserable wretch into the world to endless remorse and misfortune. When I was well enough, I determined to leave the vile, the cruel destroyer of my happiness, and seek some subsistence by the labour of my hands. Accordingly, one day I put together the things I could call my own,

and

and taking all the money I was possessed of, which amounted to no more than five guineas, set off with my miserable child for some part of the world, I cared not where, so as it was far from my betrayer. I saw a coach that was coming down hither, and took a place in it; they left me at the nearest town, and I rambled about in search of some house to rest in, when fortunately this cottage struck my eyes. The old woman suffered me to board with her for a very moderate sum, and I had stayed till my money was gone, and must have sunk beneath the want of necessaries, had not your goodness relieved me." Here the poor sufferer stopped, and I consoled her as much as possible. I gave her ten guineas, and agreed with the old woman for the board of her and her child; I assured her I did not regard her as less amiable for her unfortunate deviation from virtue, and she might depend on my assistance and protection for the future, if she behaved well. She overwhelmed me with the effusions of her gratitude, and promised never again to swerve from what was right. I left her, and returned to the Grove with that heart-felt serenity that must ever attend doing a good action.

William was surprized at my long stay, and hearing the old woman bless me as I left the cottage, said he supposed I had been making the heart of age exult with joy. "Surely,

my dear young lady, (said he) a blessing must attend all who have any concern with you ; I would not quit your service to be seated on a throne." I thanked this honest creature, my Harriet, and returned home. I had just time to dress before dinner, after which Sir Harry and I drank tea at the Abbey ; Mrs. Evelin declined it. We found Charlotte better than we expected, though very low ; the rest were well, but both my Lord and Sir Edward were melancholy ; we promised to spend a day with them soon, and left them early. My thoughts were very much engaged on the mournful story I had heard. Sir Harry, seeing me grave, avoided any particularities. Adieu, my dear Harriet ; let me hear all that happens to you, and believe me your sincerely affectionate

ADELINE BELVILLE.

Sir Harry EVELIN to Captain MONTAGUE.

Myrtle-Grove.

UPON my soul, Montague, I am ruined if I should be discovered. Curse on my unfortunate fate ! I fear Miss Belville will hate, will despise me ; but let me inform you of this devilish accident. Some mornings ago, Adeline ordered her horse to go out ; I offered my attendance, but she declined it : this alarmed me ; she had before received a letter from Sir Edward

Edward Wilmot, and I conjectured this expedition was to meet him. I followed her at a distance, in order to observe her motions. I saw her enter a mean little cottage about five miles from the Grove, and having stayed some time, came out again, alone: this surprized me, and I was determined to stand centinel before the spot, and if possible discover the inhabitants. Miss Belville rode off with her servant, and I advanced towards this lowly mansion, and knocked at the door, which was opened by an old woman. "Pray, Goody, (says I) who has that lady been to see in your house that just now left it? I insist upon knowing, for I am interested in every thing that concerns her." I looked very sour; the woman was frightened: "I hope your worship will not be angry with the sweet young lady for her goodness; mayhap you are her father or brother, but if you think she has given me too much, I am willing to take less." "You need not fear my anger against the lady (not contradicting her idea of my being related to her) only inform me for what purpose she came, and I will give you money, instead of taking it away." "Thank your honour, (replied she, curtseying) I will indeed truly tell you all I know: that pretty lady, whose name I do not know, stopped here about a fortnight ago, with another lady and three gentlemen, to
shelter

shelter themselves from a hard shower of rain; and hearing me say I had a poor young creature in my house who was very unhappy, this young gentlewoman begged me to let her see her, which I did, and she gave her a great many guineas, and promised to help her out of her misfortunes: she told her she would call on her again in a little while, and give her more. This day she came and agreed with me for her board; she gave the poor young woman ten guineas, and is but just gone."

Before I could answer her, we heard a violent scream from the room above. The old woman hastened to the relief of the distressed person, but I, being rather nimbler, gained the room from whence the voice proceeded first. The object that struck my eyes was truly shocking; Miss Smyth lay extended on the floor without motion, and her helpless infant by her. The unexpected sight of this unhappy woman, reduced by me to that deplorable situation, rendered me almost as lifeless as herself. (I believe, Montague, I did not inform you that this girl had left the lodgings I had provided her with immediately after her lying-in, since which time I never heard of her) I was roused from my stupid surprize by her recovery; she faintly cast her eyes on me, with these words: "alas, Sir Harry, will you never suffer me to rest?" but seeing the old woman

was

was present, she blushed, and begged her to leave the room, saying, "this gentleman is well known to me, which was the occasion of my fainting on hearing his voice." When we were alone, she took her child and burst into tears: "Alas, my miserable boy, what will become of thee! thy inhuman father, not content with stamping infamy upon thee, will still persecute and ruin us! Ah, Sir Harry, why did you again seek to find me? I hoped I might have passed my wretched days in this remote corner, free from the observations of the cruel world, whose good opinion I had forfeited." At last I found my speech: "My surprize, Miss Smyth, (said I) has hitherto kept me silent; the accidental meeting you in this place, (for I assure you it was entirely accidental) amazes me as much as it can you; the extraordinary flight you were pleased to make from London, had effectually disgusted me, and I should not have thought of renewing our correspondence by again seeking you, had not the singularity of this day's circumstances brought you to my sight: but who is this lady who has been so great a friend to you?" "I have too long been accustomed to your cruelty, Sir Harry, to be amazed at it; but I have fortunately met with an angel, who not only pities, but relieves my distress. I have told her my unhappy story; she, though purity herself,

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sheds a gentle tear at my frailty. Leave me, sir, in the hands of this best of women, and I may yet be happy."

I was in agonies at hearing her say she had told her story; but putting on an air of composure, addressed her thus: "And so, Miss Smyth, you have thought proper to expose yourself and me to this lady, whoever she is?" "Do you not know her then?" (said she) "Yes, (answered I) I know too much of her and you too: how could you be such a simpleton thus to publish my name?" "No, Sir Harry, I have not published your name; cruel as you are, I yet had some regard left for you; and though this lady knows the circumstances of my life, she is ignorant from whom they have happened."

My hopes revived at this information, and I found I had but one way to proceed. After this meeting, Miss Belville must have no more interviews with this girl, thought I; therefore some method must be contrived to remove her. I turned to Miss Smyth, and was determined to try to wake the tenderness that I knew lay dormant in her heart for me: "My dear Fanny, (said I, taking her hand) you have infinitely obliged me by this prudent concealment of my name; I could not bear the idea that you had exposed me to this girl, who, with all her good qualities, is, I am very certain, scandalous and

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and malicious: let us mutually forget and forgive; we have been both to blame; perhaps I have been most so; lay aside your resentment, my still loved Fanny, and once more make me happy by putting yourself under my protection." She looked at me, as doubting whether I meant what I said; her fine eyes strongly inclined to forgive me; (to say the truth, Montague, she is very pretty) then casting a tender glance at the boy that lay smiling on the bed before her, again she burst into tears: "Oh, Sir Harry, seek not to destroy me a second time; I am, by the goodness of heaven, at present under the protection of an amiable and bountiful lady; leave me to my miserable fate; let my sad hours pass on in penitence and sorrow for my offences, nor, by enticing my steps to stray, involve my soul in guilt: your fatal love has been my bane; yes, I did love you, most tenderly loved you; nay, even now, spite of my wrongs."

I saw this was the time to carry my point, and was determined not to let the opportunity slip; but throwing my arms about her, endeavoured by every tenderness in my power to soften her to my purpose. When I saw her love revive, I ventured to propose my scheme: "My dear Miss Smyth, (said I) why do you weep, and by vain lamentations render yourself miserable? Consider, my charming girl, you may yet live with the man you love; con-

sent, and I will convey you from this place to one of my own seats, where you shall reign absolute mistress: true, this lady may do something for you for a time, but her bounty is very precarious; she may withdraw it, and then you and my little Harry will have no means of supporting life; not that I would insinuate this young lady would not do all in her power for you, but she is very young; her friends or guardians may discover how she bestows her money, and by enquiries find out on whom; all are not equally generous, but cruelly conclude, because a woman has had an honourable affair with a gentleman, she ought to be despised and disregarded by all her sex. If this should be the case, what will become of you? How much better would it be for you to throw yourself into the arms of him who loves you, than by an obstinate adherence to your determination, bring on your own ruin?" Here I stopped, and she appeared irresolute, and debating within herself. Finding she was not determined, I proceeded: "My dear Fanny, I have but one thing more to urge, which I hope will have the desired effect: I will not have my son brought up in this seclusion; whatever you may imagine, I have more regard for him; I mean to take proper care of him, and if you will not consent to leave this mean cottage, you must take leave

of

of him, for he shall not be nursed among savages." I found I had at last adopted the right method; she took the boy in her arms, and bursting into tears exclaimed, "Oh, my dear, my helpless Harry, must I be torn from thee; must then thy wretched mother lose thee, her only comfort! No, my child, death only shall part us; thou hast been my companion for a long time; thy innocent smiles my only consolation." Then kissing and laying him again on the bed, she turned to me; "Yes, Sir Harry, you have prevailed, I am ready to go wherever you please; I cannot consent to part with my poor boy, wretched as you have made me: I will again throw myself on your mercy."

I clasped her to my bosom with well-dissembled fondness, and thanked her for her kindness; I told her I would send Harris with a chaise to fetch her away that evening, as she could not require any time to prepare for this journey; that he should convey her to my house in Wiltshire, where I would follow her as soon as prudence would allow; and in the most solemn manner assured her she might depend on my affection and assistance. I again embraced her and her child, and after informing the old woman the lady in her house was a relation of mine, left the cottage, full of a thousand fears, lest Miss Belville should by

some accident come to the knowledge of the truth.

When I returned home, the first thing I did was to seek the gentle Adeline, who, I was informed, was walking in the garden. I flew thither, and found my sister and the lovely maid together; no cloud was visible on her beauteous countenance, but pure, exalted virtue sat in triumph on her brow, and a modest dignity shone through her whole person. Oh, how I hated myself at that moment! her superiority was intolerable; I could have stabbed my own cowardly heart for failing me, I addressed my sister first: "I fear, Mrs. Evelin, I have made you wait dinner; but the day was so fine, it tempted me to ride farther than I intended." "No, you have not, Sir Harry," answered my sister; "I did not intend dining so soon as usual to-day, as I thought perhaps Miss Belville would not be at home." "You are obligingly considerate, madam," answered the sweet Adeline. "Have you been long returned, Miss Belville?" (said I). "Not a great while, Sir; I, like you, was enchanted with the beauty of the morning, and did not hasten my return. I have been, madam, (continued she) on a pleasing employment. (Oh, how my heart fluttered!) By accident I discovered the retreat of a very unhappy girl, who laboured under the united misfortunes of being deserted
by

by the world and reproached by her own heart. Ruined and betrayed by him she loved, she pined her hapless days in misery and tears, without the common necessities of life. She was infinitely distressed, when, by good fortune, I happened to discover her." "You are an excellent girl, my dear Adeline," answered my sister; "and, by your uncommon beneficence, make numbers happy; but you may not always bestow it on good and proper objects. There appears too much mystery in the present case. Why should this young woman, unless she was very bad, seek to hide herself? Surely, she must have some friends." "Yes, madam, but she has offended them." "Then she is not worthy your munificence, my dear; I suppose some worthless baggage, who lives upon the young and compassionate: I should not wonder to hear you was robbed one day or other." "Alas, madam," answered the mild angel, "there is no danger of my being robbed, unless of my tears. This unfortunate girl has met with cruel usage from a worthless lover." She cast her penetrating eyes on me; I would have given worlds to have been absent: but putting the best face on the matter, I took her hand, and looked confidently in her face, which instantly occasioned her eyes to be withdrawn from me. "I agree with my sister entirely in this case," said I; "you will, I fear, meet in this

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girl,

girl, some creature not worthy your attention; some artful, designing woman, whose business is deceit: your amiable and benevolent disposition renders you liable to be imposed upon. I hope this woman may not turn out bad, but indeed I fear it." "I had rather be deceived, Sir Harry," answered she, "in nine instances out of ten, than, by withholding my assistance from one worthy person, render them unhappy. If I misapply my charity, I am not to blame; all are liable to be imposed upon by a specious appearance; but I should be inexcusable to make that an excuse for not assisting distressed objects. I shall be sorry if this woman should prove a deceiver; but I cannot help it: I have only acted as I ought in the trifling assistance I have ordered her; and I shall with pleasure do every thing in my power to increase her felicity, if her future conduct is regulated by virtue." We were called to dinner, which broke off the discourse; but I was sufficiently satisfied my charmer knew nothing of consequence. Elated beyond idea at my hair-breadth escape, I chatted away with unusual fluency. As I was to attend Miss Belville in the afternoon to the Abbey, I had but little time to settle my plan with Harris, who quickly understood me, and promised to convey Miss Smyth with the greatest expedition to Rushbrook-Castle in Wiltshire. He was to go to her, and walk as far

as the neighbouring town, and there take a chaise-and-four. This matter concluded, I attended my fair enslaver to Mrs. Duncannon's, and was more and more convinced she knew not I was the cruel man who had ruined the fair fame of the poor cottager. Thus, Montague, you have the whole account of this disagreeable affair. I am still in a thousand fears, lest, by some accident, Miss Belville should discover I am concerned in her elopement. I must manage the matter with a great deal of art, and if the old woman should ever see me, I do not imagine she would know me, as I hid my face as much as possible.

Harris is to write me a letter to beg pardon for his sudden disappearance; but his father was taken very ill, and is not expected to live, therefore he could not stay till I returned, lest he should come too late to see him alive. This will account to my sister for his sudden departure. My gentle, unsuspecting love, will not have an idea of a plot. Thus, Montague, I hope, this matter will blow over, and no more disturbance arise from that plaguy woman. Would to God I had never seen her! I flattered myself she was fairly off; but no such luck attends me. I heard Symth her father was dead, they say of a broken heart, for the loss of this girl. I have no patience with the old fool; what did he expect from his daughter? I

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have wrote a very long letter ; let me hear from you : I cannot account for your silence. I hope Emilia has laid aside her intention of taking a trip into the other world, yet awhile. Present my respects to her ; remember me to my two dear boys ; I really love the young rogues. Let Emily hear this part of my letter, it will raise her spirits. Adieu, your's,

HENRY EVELIN.

P S. Inform me if Dr. ——— has attended Miss Ayscough : I have great dependance on his skill : if he has not been called in, let him immediately.

Colonel MEDWAY to Miss DUNCANNON.

George-street.

THE first moment I have at my own disposal I set down to dedicate it to my Charlotte. Oh, my sweet girl ! what did I endure in the cruel moment of our separation ! Your tender, your affectionate behaviour, has eternally endeared you to me : my whole life will be too short to express my gratitude for your goodness : with pangs unutterable I left you, in that heart-rending situation ! I came to town more dead than alive. My uncle was arrived before me ; I was sensibly affected by his goodness ; and expressed my thanks as well as I could : but my heart

heart was oppressed with a melancholy I in vain strove to shake off. He observed it, and being informed of the cause, generously endeavoured to entertain me, by his lively and agreeable observations. He told me the old castle was safe in the hands of three maids, and a duenna, which he hoped would effectually deter any attempts to take it; and that altho' he had not left it for many years before, "yet, dear George, (continued he,) I could not bear to lie inactive by, while you was going to fight for your king and country; I was determined to make one grand effort, and therefore, in spite of the twinges I felt in my toes, I resolved to set out for London, and bid you adieu. Upon my declaring my intention, and ordering Joe to prepare the coach, and my old grey geldings, the whole house was struck with astonishment; and I believe the female part of the family think I am mad." Thus did Sir William strive to banish my seriousness, but his obliging endeavours proved ineffectual. At parting, for the night, he shook me by the hand, saying, "Remember, my boy, you are engaged in a noble cause; and if you fall, I shall mix a tear of triumph with those of grief." The good old man hastened from me to hide his concern at the idea of my loss: I retired to bed, but not to sleep; the charming sensibility of my Charlotte kept me waking. How did I lament, for thy
 sake,

sake, the necessity of our separation ! but yet, my amiable girl, we may, (said I to myself) meet again ; shortly meet, no more to be parted. This charming idea at last brought my thoughts to a state of composure ; and I dropped asleep. In the morning I went to the war-office, and found I was not draughted : the lot had fallen to a young man, who was very happy at it. I hastened to my uncle, to inform him of this agreeable change : I found he was in a high fever ; the journey, and agitation of his spirits were too much for him, and I feared for his life. He expressed the utmost happiness at my escape, and said, tho' he would have endeavoured to support the trial of my leaving the kingdom, if my honour had required it ; yet he should never have borne my loss. Oh, my Charlotte ! what a weight of woe is spared me by this turn of fortune ! When I left England before, I had no such tender inducements to detain me : the violence of youth, and a martial turn, led me to seek fame in the field of danger : I valued not my life, and was ready to resign it for my king and country, at a moment's warning. But now my situation is changed : held in the gentle chains of love, I am emboldened to look up with hope to the most accomplished of her sex. I am allowed to think her valuable heart is not indifferent to me ; can it then be a matter of surprize, my Charlotte, I should wish to stay

stay where the happiness of my life is centered? No, the feeling is too natural for any to condemn it. I should have informed you of this fortunate turn in my affairs the moment I had myself known it, but my uncle's indisposition engaged all my time. I left him not day nor night, till his physicians thought him out of danger, when I sat down to convey this, dare I say pleasing intelligence? to my lovely Charlotte. I would return, and throw myself at your feet, but Sir William insists I shall go with him to the castle: he says he has spared me long enough to love, and that you will have much more of my company than he shall; as, in all human probability, he will soon be destined to quit the busy theatre of life: and he intreats, if I have any affection for him, I will, by my society, endeavour to make the close of his existence happy. You must allow this was a plea not to be answered, and I consented to oblige him. Suffer me, my beloved girl, to avail myself of the promise you made of writing; and tho' the dreaded expedition is laid aside, yet let me intreat you will favour me, now and then, with a letter: reflect it is all I have to console me in your absence; deprive me not of this felicity, if you have any pity. But I flatter myself your generous heart will scorn to give pain to mine, as you have nobly acknowledged you honour me with your regard. Present my most grate-

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grateful respects to your excellent mother, and tell her I shall ever esteem it the chief happiness of my life, next to rendering myself agreeable to you, to express my sense of her goodness, and the many obligations she has conferred on me. If you will be so kind, my Charlotte, to thank the charming Miss Belville for me, I shall be for ever indebted to you: her gentle sensibility, and uncommon tenderness, call for my warmest acknowledgments. Oh, that she felt the smallest spark of that animating passion that fires my breast, for either of my friends! but yet, one must be unhappy; and perhaps her indifference is a blessing. The Earl, and Sir Edward are remembered by me with affection. Adieu, my ever beloved Charlotte! words are too weak to tell you how much you are adored by your ever sincere and devoted

GEORGE MEDWAY.

Miss BELVILLE to Miss ABINTON.

Myrtle-Grove.

I THANK you, my dearest Harriet, for your last letter; * but indeed, you exalt this little action of mine beyond what it deserves. This unfortunate woman has received no more from me than she was entitled to, as the child

* Which letter does not appear.

of

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of misery. Mrs. Evelin, and Sir Harry, seem rather to condemn my munificence; and both tell me I shall find an impostor in this girl. Heaven forbid, for her own sake; but if it should be so, I shall console myself with the reflexion, that I would have contributed to her happiness, as much as was in my power. You are angry I did not send you Sir Edward's letter, or the substance of it: take then, my dear girl, all that is material in it. He tells me he has not pardoned himself for the violence of his behaviour; but that he finds he is not master of his passions, and hopes my forgiveness for the madness of them, now as well as hereafter; tho' he assured me he would endeavour to keep them within bounds, as much as possible. Much of penitence, everlasting love and tenderness besides: he concludes with begging I will assure him I am reconciled to him, under my own hand, and that I regard him as I did before. I complied with his request, and wrote him word he was dear to me as ever.---There, I hope you are satisfied, as to this matter. I am sorry your introduction to the Miss Thompsons was delayed, as I wish all my Harriet's trials over; and that her gentle mind, peaceful and serene, may enjoy the tranquil delights of mutual and successful love. I have the pleasure to inform you Colonel Medway goes not abroad, and my friend seems to have recovered her vivacity.

city. She came here this morning with an open letter in her hand, which she flung on my toilet. "Read that, Adeline, and then join me in rejoicing; it is from the Colonel." "I do indeed, congratulate you, Charlotte, (returned I,) and hope your happiness will meet with no further interruptions; but that you may speedily bless the amiable Medway with your hand." "Lord, my dear! you would not marry me the minute he is in no danger of hopping off? No, the case is quite altered now. I had projected a most excellent scheme, which is now all frustrated: I swear I have a good mind not to marry him at all, for disappointing me." "What do you mean, Charlotte? are you not happy that he does not leave the kingdom?" "Why, yes; on one account I am, and on another I am sorry. He has no chance of being killed by the enemy here, you know; (so far very well,) but then, had he gone, it would have been delightful to have been celebrated for love and generosity. I had determined to follow him, disguised in the habiliments of a youthful warrior, I would have shared his dangers; and to tell you my real sentiments, Adeline, I think I should have made as good a figure in my martial attire, and have behaved as well as many of the pretty fellows who have the honour of leading his majesty's men forth against the hostile powers of foreign kingdoms."

"Ay,

“ Ay, ’tis very well, Charlotte; now your fears are over you may talk in this manner: but from my heart, I am glad the Colonel does not go. He is a most agreeable and deserving man, and merits happiness as much as any one; I know you only can confer it. Rejoice then, my dear girl, it is in your power, by insuring his, to put your own beyond all doubt, as far as mortality will admit: you may be happy, if you please; do not then, for the enjoyment of a blameable levity, pain a heart whose delight is obliging you.” “ Adeline, (replied she) I am thoroughly sensible of the justice and propriety of your advice; but I have been so long accustomed to suffer myself to laugh at people, especially Medway, that for my life I cannot check a strong propensity I have to turn his serious epistle into a joke. Believe me, this arises not from insensibility, but the natural bent of my disposition. I am happier than I can express that he does not leave England; but I cannot be seriously happy. Every body will find, by my vivacity, that George is safe in home quarters. I expect a long lecture from my mother, about my gaiety, but I cannot help it: as to my Lord, and Sir Edward, they will be turning up their eyes like methodist preachers, and wonder any body should be so thoughtless on a turn of fortune so very unexpected. But because they look as if they were to be sa-

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crificed, if they suffered their features to relax into a smile, that is no reason I am to imitate their stupid sadness. I cannot be grave if you would give me the world, and yet I am sure nobody means better." "I do not wish you should resign your agreeable vivacity, (answered I) so pleasing to every body who have the pleasure of your acquaintance. It is only at times I wish you to restrain it: a medium is very hard to preserve; and that should be endeavoured at. It would be unnatural in you to be seriously happy, (to use your own words) on this occasion; nor I dare say would any one of your family desire it. But you talked of making a jest of the Colonel's letter: excuse me, Charlotte; but if you was capable of entertaining a serious thought of that kind, you would sink infinitely in my esteem. To ridicule vices, may sometimes be commendable, and serve to deter many from the commission of crimes: but to pain a worthy heart, merely because we may exercise our wit, is mean and despicable. Depend on it, the reproach turns upon the ridiculer. I believe 'tis a just observation, that witty people have seldom many friends: the reason is evident; they would sooner resign their friend, than an opportunity of shewing what they think wit: and as in friendship, why not in love? true, the Colonel adores you at present, even for that very talent he suffers from;

from; but this may not always last: consider the weakness, and tenacious disposition of mortals; and then reflect if they can for ever bear their well-meant expressions, and services to be laughed at. Not but the understanding of Medway would shew him your lively sallies as they really are, only the innocent starts of a youthful imagination: but tho' they are intirely innocent, yet they may be sometimes misapplied, and will not fail to disgust him. You should be careful of that, Charlotte; for if you disgust him before marriage, when he is captivated by your beautiful person, and agreeable manner, how will it be when those perfections lose the charms of novelty, and a length of years has abated the violence of passion?" "I believe you are right, Adeline; but I never thought of the consequence of what I did; and if Medway should beat me after marriage, I must laugh at him before. But I must hurry home, not a soul knows I have had a letter from my soldier, nor the reason of my sudden flight from the abbey. I saw Sir Edward's chariot at the door, which was waiting to convey him on some visit; and while he was gone for his hat I skipped into it, and told them to drive me here, leaving the creeping Baronet to stay 'till my mama's vehicle could be prepared for him. I could die with laughing at the idea of his surprize, when he finds his chariot vanished! no doubt
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he will suppose enchantment incircles the abbey; and the queen of magick spells has borrowed his equipage, to pay a visit to her friend, some neighbouring magician."

I could not help smiling at this mad flight, and attended her to the carriage. On our way we met Sir Harry and Mrs. Evelin; they promised to spend the day after the following at the Abbey, and she left us. I was returned to the house, but Sir Harry intreated I would honour him with my company in the Grove. I immediately consented, and we went into a shady walk of high lime trees that met at the top, and formed a most delightful arbour; we talked of indifferent subjects a good while: at last Sir Harry, after being silent some time, took my hand, and sighing, addressed me thus: "The indifference you have declared you entertain for the tender passion, Miss Belville, almost deters me from mentioning it; but a promise I have made obliges me to it. You have rejected two of the most accomplished men of the age, yet I presume to plead for one, their inferior in some respects; a man who has seen and known the infinite perfections you are mistress of, and to know and adore them is the same thing. Say, most amiable of women, may I not hope that time, and the unremitted assiduities of this gentleman, may make some impression in his favour? His happiness is
 dear

dear to me; he lives but in hopes of making a tender impression on your heart: he loves you, madam, beyond himself; nothing you ever read of is half so violent as the passion you have inspired him with; he knows Lord Arundel and Sir Edward Wilmot have been unsuccessful, yet he fondly hopes you may regard him with more favour, nor impute this idea to presumption: no, Miss Belville, the superiority of his passion authorises that dear, that enchanting hope; speak then, madam, nor by your usual cruelty drive him to madness."

When I had recovered the surprize these words threw me into, I answered as follows: "Whoever the gentleman is, Sir Harry, whose love you set out in this extravagant light, I beg you will return him my thanks and this answer: As your friend, he is intitled to my regard and acknowledgments, as well as for the affection with which he honours me; but I am under a necessity of declining his offer; no time nor assiduities will make any impression in his favour; I have no heart to bestow, be his merits ever so great. Had I been capable of love, Lord Arundel or Sir Edward would have been the object; nay, were I ever to marry, my choice would fall on one of them. I am sorry your friend is so hopelessly attached, but by a proper exertion of resolution he will soon regain his freedom." "Never, never, Miss

Miss Belville; do not imagine his love is so weak, so unstable, as to yield to any thing: no, madam, his affections are entwined with the strings of his heart, and when one is conquered, the other must break."

He looked shocking, his eyes flashed fire, and he walked from me with the greatest agitation; but suddenly recollecting himself he appeared composed, and taking my hand, went on thus: "I have suffered my zeal for the interest of my friend to lead me further than I ought; forgive my warmth, madam, I meant not to offend you; but your absolute refusal of his heart betrayed me into passion, which I am heartily ashamed of." "Make no apologies to me, Sir Harry; no doubt you were hurt by my treatment of the gentleman whose cause you espouse; but sincerity is my rule; I would not delude the hopes of any man by a shew of complacency and approbation of his love. I should esteem it as a great obligation, sir, if you would inform this gentleman of my fixed and determined resolution; I never will encourage any man as a lover; I mean to live for ever single, and therefore hope I shall be no more solicited to change my intention, as it would be without effect. My life has had something peculiar in it, which, according to my principles, renders it impossible for me to entertain ideas of changing my situation: it only
pains

pains me to be solicited, as I am obliged to hurt others; but it alters not my determination. I therefore flatter myself this explanation will deter you from again entering on a subject which is so very disagreeable to me: from your regard and politeness, I have a right to expect to be obliged." "Certainly, Miss Belville," answered he, "and I will endeavour to reconcile my friend to the severity of his destiny; but observe, madam, I will not answer for the violence of love: it may sometime break forth from his own lips; I am, you know, an advocate for its being the first and most powerful emotion of the soul. But are you not desirous of knowing who this lover is?" "No, upon my word, Sir Harry; I had rather be ignorant." "Well, madam, you are, indeed, singular; I believe there are few of your sex that would rest till they had discovered who they had inspired with so violent a flame." "I dare say there are many as little desirous of being acquainted with their lovers as I am, and from the same motive, that they may not, from a cautious behaviour and stiffness, make a man who has distinguished them, by bestowing his heart, uneasy; but, if you please, we will retire to the house; I shall hardly have time to dress before dinner." "You are always lovely, always delicately dressed, Miss Belville," said he; but I will attend you, madam." We
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again fell into discourse on indifferent subjects, and he appeared as easy and careless as if nothing had happened. I had half an hour to spare before I was summoned to the dining-room, and sat down to inform you of the foregoing particulars.

What do you think of this lover incog.? I am half afraid I shall not so easily get rid of him as I wish; but let him rest, I shall not trouble my head about him. You promised me the remaining part of your mother's history; do not forget it, but when you have an opportunity write it, and send it to me. She must have had many trials to attain that experience and resignation she is at present possessed of: Her amiable disposition at this hour, is a striking mark of real virtue. Crosses and disappointments are too apt to contract the ideas, and sour the temper, unless opposed to sound and religious principles, and a naturally kind and benevolent turn of mind. This, my Harriet, your mother was endowed with, and she has studiously cultivated and encouraged it; this has made her days pass with, at least, a pleasing equality, and aided by philosophy, has born her above the shocks of life. I know not a character I think so estimable as Mrs. Abinton: In her we see the strongest understanding improved by a liberal education, blended with the milder graces of humanity;---humanity, the best

the best, the most distinguished virtue of our nature; the very word is harmony: 'tis those alone who are of this possessed, that justly may be said to live; nor is this heavenly feeling confined to age, or sex, or clime, all share the kind assistance it affords; nay even the guilty man is not excluded: Humanity will wipe the scalding tear that burns upon his pale and faded cheek, and try to give him comfort.

Thou, heav'nly maid, will grant the poor relief;
And dash from tottering age the tear of grief:
Thy gentle hand will lead the old and blind,
Nor leave disease or penury behind.
Sustain'd by thee, the wretch forgets his woe;
While thou art near, his sorrows cease to flow.
E'en the poor mind her helm of reason lost,
By madness torn, on fancy's pinion tost,
When thou appear'st, will heave a gentle sigh,
And momentary reason grace the eye.
Thou mak'st the galling chains of slavery free;
The mind forgets its bonds if serving thee.

You see, Harriet, how much I am enamoured of this virtue to be capable of writing an eulogium on it in verse. Adieu, my friend; my best regards attend your amiable mother, and

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accept

accept the wishes of a really sincere and faithful heart:

Ever your's,

ADELINE BELVILLE.

Sir JAMES THOMPSON to Captain FREEMER.

Ashley-Park.

I FEAR my silence has made you uneasy, Freemer; but I can assure you it has not been occasioned by neglect: I have been so continually engaged with my adored Harriet, that I have not had a moment to devote to my pen. Arthur has been several times to see me, and heartily rejoices in my recovery; he is a worthy fellow, and deserves happiness; but egad, I do not know how it is possible he should obtain it under the roof with that out-of-the-way old fellow, his father; and that antiquated piece of formality, Miss Alice. He tells me they have visitors at Trout-hall, at present, who are all to be here next week: some strange mortals, no doubt.---This day, after dinner, I told my aunts I should introduce Miss Abinton to them to-morrow, as the beloved of my heart, and my intended bride: Miss Thompson replied with the utmost good nature in these words; "you are sensible, nephew, your happiness would, in a great degree, augment mine; and I dare say I may answer for my sisters, in supposing they are

are of the same way of thinking. I congratulate you sincerely that you have made choice of a lady so amiable, and well descended, to bear your name. I should have been very sorry to have seen Lady Thompson ashamed of her pedigree: but the daughter of Colonel Abinton might grace the family of a duke. The Abintons are one of the best families in the kingdom; and I do assure you, notwithstanding the great merit of the young lady, I should not have been pleased with the match, unless she could trace her pedigree as far as the conquest, at least." "I agree with you, sister, (replied Miss Sukey) and I think it a very fortunate circumstance that Sir James is enamoured with a lady who has both family and fortune to recommend her. As to the latter article, we might have dispensed with; tho' I believe Sir James is too much in love to mind any objections." "Indeed, you are quite right, madam, (answered I) my Harriet is family, fortune, and every thing. I would have laid myself, and all I had at her feet, if she had not had the prospect of a shilling." "Nobody doubts your imprudence, (interrupted Miss Betty) but tho' you might have chose to introduce a beggar into your family, there was no reason why we were to have received her: but as it is, I see no such great matters in this marriage. Miss Abinton's fortune is, at best, but equal to

your estate, and with such a descendance as you can boast, you might have expected a woman with a great deal more money." "Ay, my dear aunt, (answered I) the misfortune is, that few people, now-a-days, set any great value on descendance, as is evident, for if you had met with a man properly sensible of the value of a woman who could boast a family like your's, most likely, with your amiable qualities, you would not have remained a spinster." I forgot the other ladies were present, and feared I had gone too far; but they took no notice of it, perhaps to hear what Miss Betty would say. "As to that, Sir James, (answered she) I might have changed my name long ago; but I hate the very idea of men, a set of disagreeable creatures!" "Yes, madam; I believe you." "Believe me, sir! to be sure! and why should you not believe me? do you suppose I would condescend to tell a falsity?" "Nay, sister; (interrupted the eldest lady) Sir James did not mean to give you any offence; you are so soon angry!" "And with reason, sister, (cried she) he is always insulting me: why, it was but in his illness he represented me in such a light to Mr. Fracture, that no human creature could bear it: the insolent surgeon presuming on his disrespect, gave himself insufferable airs: and now, because he is going to be married to a pretty infant, he has the impudence to upbraid me

me with having lived single." "Why, Miss Betty, (said my aunt Sukey) he upbraids all, just as much as he does you; so you need not take it to yourself: but you are only disappointed that he should have obtained a girl of such beauty and accomplishments without your assistance; you love to be the first in every thing." I saw indignation flash from her eyes, and casting a most contemptuous look at her sister, with an affected composure she pronounced these words, and left the room: "Your ignorance, Sukey, is the only excuse I can make for you; and, however you may stand in need of my assistance in future, you may depend on it, I will have nothing to do in this foolish business." When she was departed I apologized to the other ladies for what I had said: they both agreed she deserved the rebuke and mortification she had met with. Adieu, Freemer, 'till to-morrow; I shall not close this till after my Harriet's visit.

* * * * *

The beloved of my heart has been here, and I am just returned from attending her to her own peaceful dwelling. As they were to dine with us, I went early to the wood: my sweet girl was elegantly dressed, and looked like a divinity. "Oh, Sir James, (said she as soon

as I beheld her) how I dread this ceremonious day! I fear Miss Thompsons will not regard me as they did." "Talk not so, my amiable Harriet, they will; they do admire and love you: fear nothing, you are calculated to eclipse the whole world in beauty and elegance; what then should you fear?" A crimson blush passed across her beautiful face at my praise. "I hope (answered the dear angel) I shall ever be deserving this excess of love; it shall be the study of my life, Sir James, to merit your tendernefs." I kissed her snowy hand. Mrs. Abinton soon appeared. "I hope, my children, (said she) I have not made you wait; but you must allow for an old woman. I have been endeavouring, Sir James, to persuade my Harriet to lay aside her fears; she has nothing to apprehend from the Miss Thompsons, I tell her; but the timid girl will not be easy." "I have been doing the same thing, madam, before you came down; and I assure her the person does not live who should with impunity treat her with disrespect: the nearest relation should be by me totally discarded, if they shewed the smallest slight to her; but I am so well informed of my aunts sentiments, that I am sure they will receive her as an honour to their family, of whom they are very proud. One thing, my Harriet, I have to tell you, which is, that my aunt Betty may say some ill-natured

natured things, but you must not mind her, she is not regarded by any body."

She appeared satisfied, and we set forwards to Ashley-park. The ladies met us at the drawing-room door, as if they had never beheld us in their days; and it was now necessary to preserve the ceremony of a first introduction. Mrs. Abinton entered, and I followed with my Harriet, whom I led up to my eldest aunt: "Receive, madam, from the hands of your nephew, the lady who alone can make him happy, the lovely Miss Abinton, whom I hope shortly to call by the name of Thompson." She took the offered hand of my charmer, and kissing her, replied, "May every blessing this life is capable of enjoying, be the lot of you both! My dear Miss Abinton, you have conferred an honour upon us all, by your acceptance of Sir James." "Thank you, madam, for this kind assurance, (answered she); I am too happy to be honoured with your approbation." Then turning to my aunt Sukey, "May I not hope, madam, to meet with the same partial indulgence from you?" "You may, indeed, my sweet girl, (cried Miss Sukey) and to be related to so much affability and good-nature, I think any one might be proud of." Nothing now remained but to settle matters with Miss Betty, who received the compliments of Harriet with a stiff civility,

saying, "I shall not dissent from the general voice of my family, madam, but wish you happy." Bad as this was, I feared it would be worse, from her four looks.

This ceremony over with them, Miss Abington approached her mother; "Oh, madam, congratulate your happy Harriet, that these ladies have thought me worthy the honour of being related to them." She folded her in her arms; "My dearest child, if the prayers of a fond and doating mother will prevail, you will be exquisitely happy, and you have every prospect of it; a lover amiable as your's (bowing to me,) and the countenance and protection of a family so eligible in every respect, you must pass your days in felicity and comfort." I took the hand of this excellent woman, and holding it to my heart, assured her while it continued to beat, it would preserve the highest veneration for her goodness: "May I no longer live, madam, than I am grateful to you and my Harriet. My beloved girl, (continued I) the distinction and favour with which you have honoured me, shall be ever fresh in my memory, and my whole life shall be employed to make some return to your preference."

We appeared the happiest groupe of people that could be assembled, and the rest of the day was spent in the most agreeable manner: even Miss Betty caught the tender sympathy
that

that reigned, and was good-natured and obliging. After dinner we walked in the park; I took the hand of my Harriet, and drew her aside from the rest. We rambled about for two hours, during which time I never once reflected on the company we had left, nor did Miss Abinton, I believe. Blessed in the conversation of the woman I loved, I wished for nothing besides; her innocent regard appeared in all she said, and I was the happiest of men. The evening stole imperceptibly upon us; I found the silver moon was rising, before I knew the sun had retired; my gentle love proposed we should return, but I pressed for a continuation of my felicity, and begged her to stay longer. Ever ready to oblige, she consented for one ten minutes: I never was so tranquilly happy in my life, Fremer, as at that moment. Let the libertine talk of the joys of sense, but when compared to the innocent, tender emotion of virtuous love, how despicable do they appear! No goading reflections arise to check the delighted heart, no fears or jealous tumults, but all is ecstasy pure and unmixed: I could not be properly said to live before I knew Miss Abinton; she has refined my ideas, and made me another man; the duties of domestic life now appear in their proper light, and I look forward to the time that with her I may share each pleasing as well as painful sensation,

fation, with the utmost satisfaction. I once thought it was enough for a man not to be an infidel and rascal; but I find now there is more necessary; inactivity and idleness but ill become the Christian. You see, Freemer, how I am improved; my Harriet will in time make me like herself: but I have digressed infinitely.

Miss Abinton at last grew impatient, and begged me to go home, lest her mother should be uneasy. I immediately obeyed her, and we got back to the park about nine o'clock. We found Mrs. Abinton waiting for her daughter. I attended them, and left my beloved and her mother safe at their own house. I walked about the park for some time afterwards, reflecting on the happiness of my destiny: nature, as if rejoicing at my good fortune, appeared unusually beautiful; the moon, that was now in its full splendour, played on the water, and by its mild and lucid brightness, illuminated the heavens; the stars twinkled all over the vaulted canopy above, and seemed to vie with the splendid planet around which they played; over half the mansion appeared a veil of darkness, while the other was white with the reflection of Cynthia's beams. I seated myself on a bench under a great oak in the park, which, by its towering height, appeared the father of the neighbouring trees:

here

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here I contemplated the lovely prospect around me, and could not help exclaiming, in the words of the divine Milton,

*These are thy wond'rous works, Parent of Good!
Almighty! this thy universal frame:
How wond'rous fair! thyself how wond'rous then
Unspeakable!*

The soft blowing of the evening air, and the gentle sound of a distant waterfall, added to the harmonious scene, and so transported me, that I could hardly support my feelings. I was sorry to leave this charming situation, but fearing lest the dews of the night should give me cold, I returned to the house. I know you will rejoice in my felicity, and therefore will continue to write all that occurs from time to time; besides I think it may amuse you. Let me hear if you know any thing of Louisa, and believe me most sincerely your's,

JAMES THOMPSON.

Miss DUNCANNON to Colonel MEDWAY.

Belmont-Abbey,

AND so, Colonel, you have really changed quarters, and instead of a foreign campaign, are safely lodged in Southwell Castle. Receive my congratulations on this fortunate escape,

as well as the numberless expressions of joy with which my ears have been dinned from all parts of this house; for, to tell you a secret, not a soul in it but most cordially wishes you well; but to particularize their several messages would require at least an hundred pens, and half as many sheets of paper, to say nothing of my trouble in writing them; therefore I shall lump them, and send them all together. I have one thing to tell you, Medway, which is, that you will not make me your conveyer of compliments; for you must know I always forget them, and have not delivered half what you told me. The best way for you to proceed when you are overladen with gratitude is, to stuff it all into a box, and throw it amongst your friends. But seriously then, (for Adeline tells me I ought to be serious) I am really glad you do not go among them bloody-minded wretches abroad; a breach in your head would not have been so easily healed as a breach in in your heart; marriage is an effectual cure for the latter, and they tell me here I ought not to make you any longer uneasy. But this is foolish talking, Medway; the longer I keep you in suspense, the greater will be my value: ha! is it not so with you men one and all? To say the truth, I was half afraid my behaviour when we parted would lower me in your opinion; to be sure I have been a great fool,

but

but as it is now over I will think no more of it, yet you shall know if you will. Why then I thought, as we had been lovers, it would be necessary to appear affected at our separation, and accordingly cried, wrung my hands, was very unhappy, as I should be, and at last fainted away. I acted my part so well, that my mother as well as the rest believed I was in earnest; but, I do assure you, it was no such thing; I only pretended to be affected, because it was decent; I should have kept up the farce longer, perhaps, if you had gone, but now I am honest enough to confess the truth. Lord! I served that grave mortal, Wilmot, such a trick the other day, it will make you laugh for an hour. I must therefore relate it: As soon as your letter was brought me, I determined to go to Adeline, and ask her opinion of it. "Very civil!" you will say. Well, I had just ordered my pin-sticker to order the man to get the chariot, when I saw Sir Edward's drive up to the door: a sudden thought struck me, which I immediately put in execution. While he was gone for his hat, I tripped down stairs, jumped into the equipage, and told the man to drive me with all possible expedition to Myrtle-grove: the fellow, who no doubt thought the chariot was prepared for me, instantly obeyed. When I returned, I found Sir Edward fretting and stewing,

stewing, to know what had become of his vehicle. I told him I had seen it making the greatest expedition towards Miss Belville's, where I suppose his servants mistaking his orders, had driven it without him. He vowed he would discharge the stupid fellow, as he wanted to have gone on a particular visit that morning." "Why, (answered I) the man, no doubt, understood the horses should go and take a survey of Miss Belville's habitation; for to my certain knowledge, they have been there." This put him out of all patience; and when I had sufficiently enjoyed his violence, I coolly told him I had in compassion made use of them, as I saw them stand so long at the door, while he was dressing himself, that I feared they would take cold. I do assure you, Medway, I thought he would have run his sword through my body, for he walked up and down the room in such haste, and laid his hand upon it so often, that I was obliged to frighten him, and tell him, if he touched that ugly thing again, I would make you drum him out of the house. You was a martial man, you know; it was necessary to use the words *drum him out*, as it had a terrible sound with it. I am pleased with you, George, in giving up your own gratification, which, as you tell me, is in beholding me, to accompany your uncle to Southwell castle: I have a great regard for Sir William, and do not know if I shall

shall not pay my sister Aimworth a visit in order to be near him: but now you need not fancy you are concerned in this intention; for if you do, you will find yourself mistaken. By the way, tell my sister I am ashamed I have not wrote to her; and I will allow you to say, by way of excuse, I was so much concerned at the prospect of your leaving England, that I could not find a moment's leisure; (you know she is ignorant that my concern was, make believe,) and this will do very well: as to my visit, it is not quite fixed, and, therefore you may only hint it. I tell you what, Medway, if I was you, I would have that castle of your's fortified all round; for, as sure as you live, some of the enemy will find you out, and be so disappointed at your not coming abroad for them to dispatch, that they will certainly cannonade the castle. In that case, the three maids and duenna, with Sir William, may advance to meet them, and you stay behind, and give your command through the key-hole; for as you are a colonel, you must command them: and, if you find it necessary, you may fire a few vollies of small shot down upon them from your window. Sir William and the women will stand the first fire, and then you may come up with a reinforcement, consisting of Will, the gardener, and the old coachman, Joe. Ha, ha, ha! forgive me, Medway, but I can-

not

not for my life help laughing at this ridiculous idea. My mama has just been looking over me, and pronounces 'tis dangerous playing with edged tools. "The Colonel is not yet out of danger; he may be summoned abroad in a moment; then, Charlotte, you will condemn your levity, if that should be the case." I vow the very supposition has made me feel grave; for, in spite of what I have said, I shall sensibly feel your departure: but lest I should make you too vain, I will break off with assuring you I am your very sincere and obliged

CHARLOTTE DUNCANNON.

P. S. My mother bids me tell you she has not been so happy for many years as your letter made her; and as soon as you can manage it, shall rejoice to see you at the abbey. Lord Arundel, and Sir Edward join in this assurance: once more adieu.

The Right Hon. Earl of ARUNDEL to Colonel MEDWAY.

Belmont-Abbey.

RECEIVE my congratulations, George, on your stay in England, the dear, now doubly dear soil that gave you birth. May you remain safe from every danger; or if incircled by them, like this escape them. The knowledge of this

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favourable turn has spread a pleasing appearance around every thing at the abbey: Charlotte is almost frantick with joy, tho' she will not allow it proceeds from this cause. Mrs. Duncannon preaches on the goodness and protection of providence; and your friend Wilmot, and myself, silently exult that you are spared to us. Sir Edward was engaged to pay a visit yesterday, but Charlotte disappointed him: he proposed doing it this morning; and while he was gone, I told him I would go and enquire after the health of Miss Belville: I found she was in her own apartment in the grove, alone: thither I went; and entering softly, was not observed by her. She was intently looking on a picture which she held in her hand: she seemed buried in thought, and now and then lifted her handkerchief to her eyes: at last sighing, and putting the picture in her pocket, she arose, her lovely eyes suffused with tears. She saw me, and started! "Forgive me, Miss Belville, (said I) I did not mean to break in on your retirement; and should have retired unperceived, just as you moved." "I am glad to see your Lordship, (answered she) pray walk in; you have not disturbed me from any thing that I cannot think on at some more convenient opportunity: how are the ladies and Sir Edward?" "Well, madam; Charlotte is in high spirits that the Colonel does not go abroad: she

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she has got the better of her fears, and is as gay as ever." "I know it, my Lord: she was with me yesterday; and informed me he was not destined to leave the kingdom. I truly rejoice at it; the Colonel is very dear to me, as well as my Charlotte: many tears I have shed for him, and her too; but happily they were unnecessary." "You are all that's good and compassionate, Miss Belville; too tenderly compassionate for my peace! oh, be more kind, or more cruel! I cannot bear my present torment!" Had you seen her, Medway, you would not have wondered I thus broke my resolution: her charming eyes, wet with the tears she had just shed, seemed to emit a milder ray; and promised more complacency than usual: her cheeks glowing with the warmth of sensibility, wore heightened graces; in short, she shone like some celestial being. She looked on me for some time with an appearance of grief; at length she spoke: "Alas, my Lord! am I to be forever pained by your thus violating your promise? Will you still seek new ways of making me uneasy? I have given you what I can of my heart; all that I have is your's; friendship engrosses it; you, and the amiable Sir Edward are both my friends; I esteem you both: why will you ask for what I cannot give you!" She wiped her eyes; I took her hand, a pearly tear fell on mine. "Am I the cause, the hated cause

cause of those precious drops?" "You are, my Lord, indeed, the cause; but far from the hated one. I weep because I cannot make you happy: I would resign any thing to secure your felicity, as well as Sir Edward's; but my destiny is very wayward. I see, and pity the passion you are both tormented with: but I behold it without being able to relieve, in the smallest degree, the pangs you experience."

"Oh, my dear Adeline! suffer me this once to call you by that loved name! I cannot bear your tears! I would willingly tear this vile rebellious heart, and throw it at your feet, for having dared to offend you. No man ever loved as I do; my very soul is fixed on you. I must be totally annihilated, before I could cease to love, to idolize you!" "Still call me your Adeline, my Lord, nor fear to give offence to me: am I not your friend? your real, true, and sympathizing friend? how then can I be angry at an epithet which friendship dictates?" This was too much; her generosity overcame me, and I was obliged to turn from her, my emotions were so violent: I drew out my handkerchief, and leaned against the wainscot. Oh, Medway! I am ashamed to acknowledge it, but I felt the trickling tear steal down my cheek: Unconscious of my weakness for a moment, I suffered it to take its course; but finding my situation, I feared Miss Belville would

would despise me. She came to me, and taking me by the arm,---“For heaven’s sake, my Lord, what is the matter! I hope I have not pained you by any thing I said; if I have, I do assure you it was not intentional.” I dared not trust myself to look at her; and still covered my face with the handkerchief I held in my hands. Never did I feel such exquisite emotions as at that moment. The lovely Miss Belville finding I did not answer her, feared I was ill. “Speak, my Lord, if you have any regard, any pity for me, tell me if you are not well, and I will call assistance.” She was leaving the room, but I stopped her, and taking both her hands,---“Stay, (cried I) I have no illness but what you have inflicted. Oh, Miss Belville! I cannot bear your goodness; it makes me mad; I know not what I did! (but clasping her in my arms, exclaimed) Alas, my Adeline! you have undone me! tell me I may hope, or I am wretched.” She struggled to get from me, but I madly held her. Oh, George! that moment, I would give worlds for that dear moment to return. At last she broke from me, and seating herself in a chair, seemed much agitated. I saw my folly, and flung myself at her feet. “Oh, my beloved! (cried I) forgive me, or I will never rise. I was beside myself; and unless you pardon my presumption, I shall be miserable.” “My Lord, (re-

(replied she) I know too much of you, to imagine this behaviour was meant to insult me: I impute it to an unguarded indulgence of your passions, which you should endeavour to restrain. But rise, Lord Arundel; I would not make you unhappy by a ridiculous prudery: I heartily forgive you." She held out her dear hand, which I pressed to my lips, and seated myself by her. Oh, George! where is there a woman like her, noble and exalted? Never did I see such modest sweetness blended together, as in Miss Belville. "Your kind, your generous forgiveness, madam, (said I) endears you to me more than ever. I have not words to thank you: but oh, Miss Belville; pity the weakness of my passion! that passion, so long restrained, was not proof against your tenderness. My love is of a nature pure and delicate as your charming self: nor did I, at the moment, entertain a thought your innocence might blush at." "My Lord, I do believe you, and heartily excuse your behaviour; let the motive of it be what it would: but we have been grave a great while, what say you to a walk?" I consented reluctantly to attend her, and we struck into the thickest part of the grove. We had not walked long, before we were joined by Sir Harry Evelin; and as I had no opportunity of engaging Adeline separately, I soon after took my leave; but with sensations too exquisite to
be

be described: my love, my despair augmented, I saw no way of extricating myself. I found Sir Edward returned; he came to me as soon as I got off my horse. "I have been wishing for you," (said he) "how is Miss Belville?" "Well," (answered I) "and too lovely for my peace. Oh, Wilmot! I wonder not that you acted as you did: the charms of that girl were enough to corrupt a nation. I have acted basely in my turn, and sought to prejudice Miss Belville in my favour: but I sought in vain; inexorably fixed in her determination, she would not hear my pleadings: half mad with despair and love, I left her. But can you forgive me, Sir Edward, for a conduct thus under-hand? I would not injure you, but we have neither any thing to hope: my passion got the better of my reason, and I had broke our engagement before I knew it." "Oh, Arundel," (said he) "why ask you my forgiveness? you have done nothing in comparison to me; 'tis too true Miss Belville never will regard us but as friends. I feel how hard it is to conquer myself when I am with her, and therefore do not wonder at you; for ever let it be buried in oblivion, and from henceforth be dearer to me than before." What exquisite generosity! Sir Edward is the best of friends, notwithstanding his conduct to Miss Belville; it was natural, it was excusable;

fable; her beauty would have moved an anchorite.

When I retired for the night, I could not forbear informing you of this circumstance; my heart was oppressed, and by unloading it I have shook off great part of the melancholy I laboured under. Forgive me, George, for thus troubling you with my uneasiness; but 'tis the office of friendship, by a kind participation, to alleviate the suffering heart. I wish you was here; the whole family wish it. Dear as Sir Edward justly is to me, yet I cannot so unreservedly speak my feelings to him as to you: he is too nearly interested in the tender cause of my sorrow. I cannot shock him by a confession of my love; for although he most tenderly sympathizes in every thing that concerns me, yet I can see, every time I mention the partiality I have for the angelic Adeline, his generous heart sustains a pang hardly supportable. Adieu, Medway, your fate is more fortunate; you love, and are beloved.

Your's,

ARUNDEL.

Sir

Sir Harry EVELIN to Captain MONTAGUE.

I Have been most effectually mortified, upon my soul, Montague, since I wrote last. How I could curse myself, Miss Belville, and the whole world ! Deceived by my own damned vanity, and her gentle demeanour, I, like a blockhead, the other day, having an opportunity, ventured to declare my passion under the guise of a friend. I told her I knew a man that loved, that doated on her ; and unless she would allow me to give him hopes, he would be miserable. I imagined the charming girl suspected who this lover was ; but putting on an air of indifference, coolly delivered an absolute refusal, which I was to convey to my supposed friend. Not master of myself, I seized her hand with the utmost violence, swore he would never give up his hopes on any account ; and unless she would give him leave to love her, he would force every pretender to her heart to resign her, or his life. She was very much terrified with my rage, and looked as if she did not know what to do. I found I had proceeded wrong, and therefore endeavoured to make some reparation ; intreated her pardon ; layed my violence to the interest I had in all that

con-

concerned my friend; promised to reconcile him to his fate, if possible; and assuming a *dogagee* air, chatted away as if nothing had happened. She, good-natured creature, immediately forgave me; and it passed on. One thing I have gleaned from this conference is, that I must not hazard a declaration of my passion, in my own proper person. This unaccountable girl would forbid me to hope in a minute. All I have for it is, that art and design may accomplish what a distant and humble love would never effect. I had figured to myself an idea that I had nothing to do but tell my tale, and be heard with smiles. So long successful with the charming sex, I doubted not but Miss Belville was a like compound of vanity; on that I built my hopes. I imputed the dismissal of the Earl and Sir Edward, to their own pusillanimity; and imagined when she had met with a man well read in the frailties of her sex, she would, of course, surrender her heart; but from the observations I have made, I found she was in many respects superior to the generality of her sex, and therefore I did not inconsiderately declare how much I adored her; but proceeded more cautiously; and very well I did, for I should have been cursedly pained, had she point-blank refused me; and, that she would, I have not a doubt: as it is, I have now an opportunity of engaging her affections, if that is

possible. She may suspect, but she cannot be certain I am the man so violently in love with her; and I am determined, by my behaviour, to inspire her with an idea to the contrary. This devilish affair has thrown me entirely out of my plan; but however, if no art will do, I have at last a *coup de main* that must inevitably succeed. I am more than ever resolved not to be baffled by this lovely philosopher: her insensibility increases my love, as much as her beauty does my desire to get her into my power: that would be the very soul of management to gain the heart or person, no matter which, of this superior character: nothing shall be left untried to compleat my purpose. So determined was she to crush the hopes of this aspiring lover, that she told me, if she had ever turned her thoughts towards love, Lord Arundel or Sir Edward would have been the object; nay, were she even now to marry, her choice would light on one of them. First would I wreak my vengeance on their detested hearts blood. But I need not fear, she will not marry.

She has not yet discovered the flight of Miss Smyth from the cottage; when she does, I shall not fail to make my advantage of it. The ingratitude of this woman may have a proper effect, and restrain her over-diffusive charity. I have wisely pronounced, I dare answer for it she will find her goodness disappointed in this girl,

girl, who, I suppose, is no more than a female sharper, and has met in her a proper object to defraud. But this idea, with which I endeavoured to inspire her, had not the effect I imagined; for in her own conscious innocence and rectitude she seeks consolation. "Be it so, Sir Harry," said she, with the utmost mildness; "I have not done wrong, nor do I think my bounty misapplied, even if this poor girl is what you would have me think her. The treatment she met from me, may warn her from plunging deeper in vice, and so answer the extent of my wishes; or, if on the contrary, I have the pleasure of reflecting I have not even erred in this case. She bore the semblance of virtue, of repenting virtue; and as I have not the faculty of looking into the heart, I could not tell whether it was real or assumed." "Miss Belville," cried I, "you would not indiscriminately relieve all that apply to you; would you?" "No, Sir Harry; not those whom I know to be undeserving, till I had reason to believe they repented of their wickedness, then I would relieve them to the utmost of my power. Severity can do no good: we are more likely to win the sinner to repentance by mild and gentle methods, than by harshness and upbraidings. Are we not commanded to forgive others, as we hope to be forgiven? why then should we withhold our bounty, when, by be-

bestowing it, we may preserve a fellow creature from misery? You will tell me, perhaps, I may encourage vice by this ill-considered munificence. Sometimes it may be so, but in general, I believe you will see more bad people become good by a humanity of treatment and a generous assistance: the nature of man is noble, however depraved; and, by a behaviour kind and benevolent, you will not fail to wake their gratitude, and whenever that is thoroughly excited, we may justly hope an amendment of manners. In the case of this unhappy girl, I am convinced her gratitude is engaged; she strongly feels the errors of her former life, and means to atone for them. Should I not be unpardonable then to keep from her a paltry sum, when, by granting it, I may be the means of preserving her and her innocent infant from the most exquisite distress?" "You talked something of her having been seduced," Miss Belville, replied I, (with the utmost composure of countenance). "Oh yes, sir, she has been cruelly used; her story is very melancholy. The vile man that destroyed her, was base enough to threaten to desert her if she did not cease to lament her ruined peace. How cruelly inhuman! Even the most abandoned, in such a case, would have had some pity. But though she was destitute of every means of subsistence, she left her betrayer, nobly left him; and with her

her helpless child, sought a secure retreat, safe in this solitude, where I fortunately found her, and will, to the utmost of my power, preserve her from his artifices." (Ay, my dear girl, thought I, that matter is properly settled.) I applauded her behaviour; wished it might have the desired effect; and we dropt the discourse.

By the way, Montague, I believe I did not tell you I have received a letter from Harris: he informs me the lady shewed great regret at the idea of leaving the cottage; but upon his insisting she should, or give up the child, she consented, and with tearful eyes stole out of the house, while the old woman was absent, which was previously concerted. They passed through bye ways to the nearest town, at the entrance of which stood a chaise ready for them; he seated his fair charge in it, and himself by her, and strove by every method he could think of, to abate her grief, but without effect. She wrung her hands, and lamented in the most pathetic terms, her ingratitude to the angel that had treated her so generously. Between every pause of her sorrow, Harris rung in her ears the great worth and generosity of his master, which he magnified far beyond the truth, like a blockhead as he was. They got safe to the castle, however, and there the lady seemed more content than before, as she was treated

with the utmost respect by the servants, as I had commanded. Harris says she is a sweet young lady, and every body likes her. I have a farther view, Montague, to get intirely rid of this girl; which, in future, I shall communicate to her. As long as she is safe there, I have nothing to apprehend; she is totally ignorant of the name and residence of her lovely benefactress, therefore she cannot write to excuse her conduct; that would ruin every thing. Upon the whole, I think this a very fortunate escape; and had I not been seized with a desire of watching Miss Belville, I had not discovered this run-a-way. "Fortune favours the bold," is a just observation; I have proved it hitherto, and if she does not play me a slippery trick, in regard to Miss Belville, I will for ever worship her. Let me hear from you; I am desirous of knowing how Emily does. What can occasion your silence? I am weary of conjecturing, write, and end them.

HENRY EVELIN.

Sir JAMES THOMPSON to Captain FREEMER.

Ashley-Park.

I SIT down, Fremer, to give you an account of our visitors, which I really imagine will entertain you, as the company expected was large. My aunts were busied in preparations; they have always vied with Miss Arthur in

In the decoration of the table: accordingly, the geniuses of all were employed on this occasion, as it was necessary to make a more elegant appearance to-day, than usual. Unfortunately, they differed in their opinion about placing a trifle in the middle of several solid dishes. Miss Betty was for having her best production appear properly conspicuous, and therefore insisted it should take place of a hash'd calf's head. Miss Sukey, on hearing of the intended alteration, remonstrated against it, saying, the contents of Miss Betty's dish being more insignificant, it should be removed to the bottom of the table. The other lady loudly protested she would not consent to it, but that it should stand where she liked: in vain they both represented the impropriety. I was applied to, but begged to be neuter in the business, as I was not properly a judge of the quarrel. The contest was very loud and long; when Miss Sukey seeing her sister look another way, removed the trifle, and placed an empty dish in its station. On her observing this change, she lost all patience, and flying to the table, seized the devoted dish, and dashed it on the floor, which instantly was strewed with a thousand shining particles. All now was anarchy and confusion: the two ladies hardly kept their hands unemployed; while poor Miss Thompson sat lamenting the accident, and joined her sister in condemning Miss

Betty's behaviour. Melancholy as this scene was, I could not forbear laughing at it; and fearing my mirth should give offence to the ladies, left the field of disputation, and betook myself to the sweet abode of my Harriet. I found her waiting my arrival, as she knew we expected company: she was more dressed than I had yet seen her. She had on a slight white lutestring gown and petticoat, (the ladies have a fine name for them, but I do not know what it is) trimmed with blonde lace and Indian-flowers: her beautiful hair without powder, ornamented with a small white feather, and a row of diamond pins. The ribbons she wore were pale pink, which was a most delightful advantage to the delicacy of her skin; and all together, she was the prettiest woman I had ever seen. As we might probably walk, I advised her to take her calash, which she did, and we set forwards for the park. As Mrs. Abington did not chuse to mix in much company, I took my place by my Harriet, in the chariot. She was in a delightful harmony of spirits: I entertained her with the misfortunes of the morning; she could not avoid smiling, when she saw the ill-nature depicted on the countenances of the ladies. As the evil was universally felt, so the effects of it were as universal, and none of them were able to hide their chagrine; more particularly Miss Betty, who,

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tho' she was the authoress of the mischief, was warmest in expressing her resentment at it. My gentle Harriet was affected with the sorrow Miss Thompson felt for the accident; and by her good nature, endeavoured to comfort her. "Surely, my dear madam, (said she) this loss is not irreparable; perhaps you may get one exactly similar." "It is not the value of the dish, Miss Abinton, (interrupted my aunt Sukey) that my sister regrets, but the violence, and passionate obstinacy of Miss Betty, who, if she had but a grain of understanding, would not have thought of cramming a foolish trifle before every thing else." Miss Betty was going to answer with no great share of mildness, but the arrival of our guests prevented her. We saw the cavalcade from the window, with which we were highly entertained. Two carriages, the one a phaeton, the other Sir Robert's chariot; the Baronet, Mr. Arthur, and four servants on horseback: in the phaeton sat an elegant man, with two young ladies; in the chariot, Miss Arthur, with a lady, whose appearance at a distance was very portly; and on my drawing nearer, I found I was not mistaken. Upon my word, Freemer, it was with difficulty I forbore laughing at her figure. Picture to yourself an immense woman, half an acre in dimension, with a face the exact emblem of a full moon; bedecked in all the finery, and girl-

ish affectation of fifteen: a cap of pink ribbons ornamented her well-powdered hair, which was frizzed and dressed in the very excess of the mode. To do her justice, she had once been handsome; but unfortunately she forgot that some twenty years had passed since she was in her bloom. I advanced to assist the ladies in alighting; which, after much difficulty, was compleated; the bulk of the strange lady being so great, that it was with no small trouble she pushed herself out of the chariot. I was in terrors, lest by the violent efforts she made to disengage herself from the sides of the vehicle, (which, as if enamoured of her charms, held her fast) she might suddenly spring forwards, and by her weight crush me, who stood nearest her. At last the conquest was compleated, and I led her to the door of the drawing-room, and returned for Miss Arthur; but I found a gentleman had got her hand, as my friend had that of one of the young ladies; to the other I offered mine, and in this order we entered the room. Miss Alice then leading her travelling companion to my aunts, "give me leave, ladies, (said she) to introduce Mrs. Sydley, the wife of that gentleman, to your acquaintance." They received her very politely, and seated her at the upper end of the room. Sir Robert now led Mr. Sydley towards the female part of the company, who had hardly adjusted the first ceremony

emony, when the Baronet prematurely interrupted his sister, who cast a look of displeasure at him, and seated herself. My aunts received the compliments of the gentlemen with great civility, and turned to the young ladies, who, with my friend Arthur, was chatting at the window. Mrs. Sydley seeing the girls engaged, exclaimed, "blefs me, Miss Stanhope! surely this is very extraordinary behaviour; one would imagine you had never been in company with people of fashion in your life." "Lord, mamma! (retorted the young lady) you are always finding fault." Miss Arthur arose, and begged ten thousand pardons that she had been so rude as to omit introducing the young ladies; "but, (continued she) better late than never. This, Madam, (addressing Miss Thompson) is the eldest daughter of Mrs. Sydley, Miss Ann Stanhope; and this, Miss Emilia." Miss Stanhope received the politeness of my aunt with a stiff, ill-natured air; while the fair Emilia returned the gentlest answer to her speech, and seated herself by my Harriet.

The first ceremony over, I had time to contemplate the several countenances of the company. Mr. Sydley is one of the handsomest men I ever beheld, of which he is sufficiently sensible: he seems to entertain a hearty contempt for his wife, who is much older than himself. The *degagé* air with which he entered
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the room, convinced me he was one of the polite world. He married his lady for her fortune, which was very considerable: she was the widow of a mercer in the city, and having but two daughters, she thought she had a right to please herself in the choice of a husband; and as she was passionately fond of quality, she married Mr. Sydley, who was only an ensign in the guards, because, as she said, he was of a good family, and had a pretty name: he still continues in the army, and his red coat becomes him extremely. The eldest Miss Stanhope is near as fat as her mother, and far from handsome; ill-natured and spiteful, as she more than once proved during the day. Emilia is tall, and elegantly formed; the finest hand and arm I ever beheld: her face is very agreeable, though not beautiful; she has a fine skin, but no colour; she appears sensible, good-tempered, and has a sweetness of manner very captivating. My Friend Harry seems entirely sensible of her merits, though her mother and sister are not; nobody treats her well, but Mr. Sydley, in her own family, and he appears very fond of her. We were silent some time, 'till Mrs. Sydley thought proper to break it, addressing her husband, (which was very polite in a room full of company)—“La! Mr. Sydley, we had like to have met with a sad accident; the chaise was ready to break
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down; Miss Arthur and I were in fear for our lives." "No wonder, child, (cried he with a careless air, stroking his point ruffles) your weight, Mrs. Sydley, would break down a broad-wheel'd waggon." "Nay, my dear, (answered she) I am not heavier than Nancy here, and she is quite a chicken." "You may imagine yourself very light, mama, but I dare say you weigh three times as much as I do," (replied Miss Stanhope). "I agree with you, Nancy, (cried Sydley); upon my soul I would not have been with your mother in Sir Robert's crazy chariot for fifty guineas; I dare say the poor horses will not be able to draw her home to-night, they will be so fatigued. Egad, Sir Robert, you should have had some mercy on the beasts, and ordered the servants to have brought the plough cattle to assist them." "Sir,---sir,---sir,---(stammered out the knight) I would have you to know there are not better horses in the kingdom than mine. What do you mean? they would draw a weight fifty times as great as your ladies; I tell you, Mr. Sydley, you never saw better horses in your life." "My dear Sir Robert, (answered he) I did not mean to disparage your horses, far from it; I thought them too good to be worked so hard." Mrs. Sydley darted an angry glance at her spouse, and muttered the word "brute!" Sir Robert was not easily to

to be pacified, but kept talking to himself: de--de--de-- despise my horses! dam'e, there are not better horses in the kingdom." "Brother, (interrupted Miss Alice) do not expose yourself by this foolish behaviour; who meant to find fault with your beasts? you are always making blunders, and then impute them to other people. Mr. Sydley did not say any thing to put you in this pett, only your ignorance misunderstood him. You forget, Sir Robert, you are in the company of ladies, therefore you need not swear like a trooper." "You are certainly right, madam, (answered Mr. Sydley) I did not mean to offend Sir Robert, upon my soul; but he must have misunderstood me, as you say." Then rising, and leaning on the back of Emilia's chair, he stared confidently in Harriet's face with visible approbation, and taking out his snuff-box, offered it to her. "I never take snuff, sir." "Not take snuff, madam! *Mon Dieu!* Then turning to his daughter, what is that tune, Emilia?" *Mon chere Cenean!* O how I adore Italian musick! Do not you like Italian compositions better than English, Miss Abinton?" "I am fond of both, sir; they are not similar, and have both excellencies." "Ah, madam, how can you endure
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an English ditty, a horrid English ballad? I thought by your appearance your taste was equally delicate; nothing is bearable in musick that is not foreign." "My Harriet, (interrupted I) has so just a taste, that she can allow to every composition its full merit, be it English or Italian; I assure you, Mr. Sydley, this dear girl is one of the best judges of musick in the world."

He stood aghast to hear me address her so familiarly. "You are very obliging, Sir James, (answered Miss Abinton) to give me such a character, but your partiality shews you the few merits I possess through the mirror of prejudice." "No, my beloved Harriet, I only do you justice in saying what I did." She bowed, and turning to Mr. Sydley, went on thus: "You say, sir, no compositions but foreign are tolerable; what think you of Handel's?" "Why, madam, (answered the fop) Handel does very well to stun one, but he has not the smallest delicacy or softness; all loud roaring, hardly supportable. Now the Italian is beautiful harmony, that strikes the soul with ecstasy." "Well, sir, (answered she) if you do not allow Handel merit, I cannot pretend to plead for any other of our composers." "Mr. Sydley, madam, (answered the gentle Emilia) has been so much abroad, that he has lost all taste for English musick;

musick; not that he can possibly be so blind as to depreciate Handel's pieces; but he has been so long a stranger to them, that he mistakes their grandeur for noise." "And who told you, my pretty Emilia, I could not distinguish grandeur from noise? (answered he, taking her hands) your wise mother there, who when she thunders her charge of fashion, fortune, and quality in my ears, has persuaded you she is acting grandly." "No, indeed, sir, (answered she) I have not the honour of being taken so much notice of by my mama." "I believe thee, Emily, upon my soul, and if you was not a good-temper'd girl, you would not bear her insupportable insolence; she takes no notice of any body but that stiff thing thy sister, and sometimes lavishes her odious fondness upon me; but I am shackled, and I cannot help myself; this *damn'd* matrimony is the ruin of a sprightly fellow."

We were called from observing this compleat macaroni, by a loud dispute at the upper-end of the room between Sir Robert and his sister; the baronet, offended at Miss Alice's rebuke, was venting his passion in no very genteel language; and the lady, no less enraged, told him he was only fit to keep company with his stable boys. Mr. Arthur was in vain endeavouring to bring them to reason; but finding the effort he made was disregarded, he proposed a little
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ramble in the park before dinner, which was immediately agreed to. Mrs. Sydley observing our intention, said she would accompany us. Mr. Sydley did all he could to prevent her, but go she would, and away we went, leaving my aunts to make up the difference with Sir Robert and his sister.

Mrs. Sydley would have taken hold of her husband's arm: "no, pardon me child, (said he) I cannot bear your weight, upon my soul." Then taking the hand of Emilia, "come, my dear girl, you shall be my companion." "Upon my word, Charles, (said his consort) you make that girl so horrid vain by the notice you take of her, that there is no living: she was always sufficiently proud, but now there is no bearing her." "And is it to be wondered at, madam, (answered he) that I take notice of the only person in the family, into which I have unfortunately married, that is deserving of it?" "Very well, Mr. Sydley; I shall for the future know who I have to thank for your ill behaviour; that pert, insolent slut, shall not dare to represent her mother in such a light." "Indeed, madam, I never represented you any otherwise than as the best of parents, (answered the fair Emilia) I appeal to Mr. Sydley himself to declare whether I ever did." Her gentle eyes were suffused with tears. "Make no excuses, Miss Emily, (cried her

her ill-natured sister) 'tis very plain." "Oh, Nancy, (answered she) you should not be against me; this is too much." She wept aloud. I saw Arthur was greatly affected, and restrained himself with difficulty. Mr. Sydley took her hand; "Comfort yourself, my dear Emilia, (said he) regard not their little malice, but rise superior to them in this as in every thing else." The ladies could not bear this preference. Mrs. Sydley taking her eldest daughter by the arm, returned back to the house, vowing she would be revenged on that vile girl."

"When she was gone, we all endeavoured to comfort the weeping Emilia, especially my Harriet; she soon regained her tranquillity, though she declared she was apprehensive of her mother and sisters' vengeance; "for, alas! my dear Miss Abinton, (continued she) for what reason I know not, but they hate me." "The reason is evident, Emilia, (answered Mr. Sydley) your foolish mother is piqued to see you so far surpass your sister, who in person and understanding is exactly like herself, and therefore dislikes merit she cannot equal. As to Nancy, her envious disposition is the cause of her treatment; but dry up your tears, my dear girl, you need not fear them while I am here; I would throw them both out of window if they were to do any thing to hurt you; as to their railing, no matter, but they shall

shall not injure you." "I thank you, sir, (replied she) I have many obligations to you, for which I shall ever be grateful." The foibles of Mr. Sydley are lost when I contemplate his generous behaviour to this amiable girl; but for him, she would be in a shocking situation.

She apologized to my Harriet for taking up her time with her own concerns; "but the unfortunate debate you was just now witness to, (said she) must have informed you, madam, I am not happy." "Make no apologies to me, my dear Miss Stanhope, (replied Harriet) I am greatly interested in your fate, and would do any thing to render your situation more agreeable. I hope time, and Mrs. Sydley's knowledge of your merits, may make the impression they deserve, and she may prize such a child as she ought." Emilia sighed, and we turned the conversation.

We had a delightful walk in the park, and returned just time enough for dinner. We found the company more composed than when we left them, though very gloomy, except Sir Robert, who had entirely forgot his anger, and was quite reconciled to his sister. Not so the haughty lady; she preserved the greatest stiffness to all his speeches; she would not deign an answer, nor did she often speak herself during the day, except when her brother asserted

asserted any thing, which he was apt to do, she flatly contradicted him, all which the patient baronet bore with the utmost temper and philosophy; nothing but his horses would work him into a passion, and of them he was very tenacious, as he valued himself on their beauty, strength, and exact likeness to each other. Mrs. Sydley was not so composed, but continually looked at the innocent Emilia with the utmost rage and contempt. As to her husband, she well knew her looks were lost on him, therefore was content to confine them to her daughter.

We were now summoned to the dining-room, and after a thousand ceremonies, were seated at table, which was elegantly covered. The long-contested trifle stood exactly conspicuous in the middle, to the great joy of Miss Betty, who had contrived this gratification to herself, by stepping out a little before dinner, and placing it where she liked, as she triumphantly declared to her sister after the company were departed. The conversation at dinner was of a piece with the specimen I have given you; therefore it will not bear repeating. My Harriet spoke but little, neither did Emilia nor Arthur; indeed Mrs. Sydley in general was the only orator. Her conversation consisted of the number of people of fashion; she knew the great convenience of keeping a carriage in
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London, dress, and things of equal importance. When we had dined, as the gentlemen declined drinking, we all retired to the Musick-room. Emilia played and sung, but Miss Stanhope would do neither; she has a very pretty voice, and good judgment. My Harriet next performed some of Handel's best songs, and in spite of Mr. Sydley's hatred to English composition, he was charmed with this: he declared he never saw any thing equal to her execution, nor heard so harmonious a voice: she entertained us for several hours, after my aunts, Mrs. Sydley, her eldest daughter, Sir Robert and his sister were set down to cards. As the evening was fine, we again took a very agreeable walk, and staid out 'till near nine o'clock. At parting, Miss Abinton begged Emilia would favour her with a farther intimacy, which she chearfully promised, and Mrs. Sydley engaged to bring her to Elmwood. After much form and ceremony they left us, and I ordered my chariot to convey my beloved to her mother. When we were seated, I took her hand; "My dear Harriet, (said I) I am more pleased with your behaviour to-day to the youngest Miss Stanhope, than I can express." "I am very happy to have met with your approbation, Sir James, but indeed I could do no less; her situation is very terrible: how happy I am in a mother!" "You are,

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are, my lovely girl; and I hope you will be as happy in a husband." O, Sir James, I do not doubt it: how very miserable should I be to be married to such a man as Mr. Sydley! 'Tis true his lady is not the most agreeable woman in the world, but he treats her cruelly." "He does, my dear Harriet, (answered I) but something may be said in his defence: he has been used to the gay scenes of life, and the low and contracted notions of his wife must disgust him."

The arrival of the carriage interrupted our discourse, and as it was late, I only delivered my Harriet to her mother, enquired after her health, and returned to the park. My aunts were disputing about the dish again, from which they got to giving their opinions of the new inhabitants of Trout-hall. Miss Betty observed, they were all a pack of ridiculous creatures. The other ladies excepted Emilia, and asked my opinion, but as I did not desire a fresh argument, I declined giving it. I retired to my room, and sat down to scribble this to you. I am afraid you will be heartily tired of my letters, and repent your having desired me to be so very particular; but as you are in the country, you may find time to read them; so I will go on. Farewel: I must lay aside my pen, after assuring you I am sincerely your's,

JAMES THOMPSON.

Captain MONTAGUE, to Sir HARRY EVELIN.

Parsonage House.

I AM very sorry, Sir Harry, you have been uneasy at my silence; but as the cause of it was the dangerous illness of Miss Ayscough, I hope it will plead my excuse. I wished not to make you uneasy, therefore forbore to write, 'till I could send you a more favourable account, which I am at last enabled to do.---She lives, and may for some time longer; but Dr. --- pronounces it entirely impossible she should ever recover it: her constitution has received a terrible shock, and he fears her continuance in this world will not be very long. I confess, Sir Harry, I have not been more shocked a great while, than at the sufferings of this lady. Every care has been taken of her that was possible: she is very much beloved by all the servants, and every person about the estate: not a tenant of your's but has enquired after her: the sweetness and gentleness of her deportment has endeared her to the whole village. The good curate, who has frequently attended her, declares he shall be edified by her piety as long as he lives. I have constantly visited her twice, or three times a-day, and have always been admitted. She often enquired after you, and asked if you were informed of her illness.

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I told her the orders you had given, that she should have the best advice England could afford; and wished to know if she was satisfied with Dr. ——. “Entirely, Captain Montague, (answered she) no one has more skill than that physician: but it is not in the power of medicine to benefit me; my disorder arises from an uneasy mind, and nothing but death will be an effectual remedy. You may, if you please, thank Sir Harry for this mark of tenderness he has shewn me: I have nothing to complain of but my own weakness and folly; I should have profited better by the education I was blessed with. If I had never seen Sir Harry, I had been happy; he won my youthful heart, and drew me from the kind protecting roof of the best of fathers. Alas! I fear my fatal error brought his venerable hairs with sorrow to the grave!” Her emotions were so violent she could not proceed: I tried to sooth her anguish by every method in my power. “Compose yourself, my dear Miss Ayscough, (said I) perhaps your father lives, and you may yet behold him: when he is witness to your sorrow, your repentance, he cannot withhold his forgiveness. She shook her head, “ah, Captain Montague! he will never again look on me, if he yet survives! he is too scrupulously honest to cast his eyes on a poor wretch robbed of every thing that once made

made her worthy his affection. How would these innocent children appear to my offended father, the living proof of his daughter's infamy? Talk not of comfort, I can no more look forward to any thing comfortable; my hopes in this world are all overcast and clouded. Alas! I have stamped infamy upon these hapless boys; have brought a tender mother to the grave, and planted in a father's heart the agonizing pangs of ruined peace! His honour, which has for many years remained spotless, by me is now contaminated! My fatal indiscretion made a parent forsake his peaceful dwelling, once the dear seat of calm content, when innocence adorned my early bloom, and seemed to promise a long day of virtue. Each tree and beauteous flower that nature planted round our humble habitation, withered and lost their graces when I fell! Oft has my fond, my partial father, taught me morality and virtuous rules beneath the shade of a large oak, the favourite of the plain: there has he often said, "Ah, my Emilia, if thou would'st wish for happiness, be virtuous: virtue alone can make these prospects pleasing. In vain will nature bloom, if the sad mind has lost its chiefest good! Bereft of virtue, life will no longer charm: 'tis this that puts the nobleman and peasant on a level. The mind that is really good, makes to itself a paradise. Fear not, my gentle child,

the shocks and miseries of life; in spite of these, if thou art virtuous, thou wilt still be happy." Ah! Captain Montague, had you but known my father, you would not wonder at my heart-felt sorrow and regret for having acted so unworthily."

In vain I sought to give her consolation by subtile sophistry; art lost its influence; I could not calm the tumults of her soul, for I could not tell her she was innocent. Pardon me, Sir Harry, for sending you this melancholy conversation; but it was so fresh in my imagination, that I could not help transcribing it from thence.

I do not think Miss Ayscough in any immediate danger, she may yet live several years: grief is making great depredations in her delicate frame; but it will be some time before it reduces the fair fabrick to ruin. I am deeply affected at her approaching catastrophe. The two boys are well, and very happy: their weeping mother seems for a moment to forget her sorrow, while attending to their innocent diversions. They are very fond of her, and often mention their father.

You were fortunate in discovering the habitation of Miss Smyth, (if it may be called fortunate) the forwarding your schemes in respect to the lovely Miss Belville. Surely, Sir Harry, the uncommon worth of that lady should

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should deter you from injuring her. You may, perhaps, condemn me for a weak, simple fellow, when I tell you the scenes I have been witness to at Fairy-hill have made me another man. I regard the seduction of innocence as one of the greatest crimes; before, I used to look upon it with no horror. I see a very lovely and amiable woman falling a sacrifice to the criminal indulgence of passion. I am like a man awakened from a dream: the folly of my former opinions stare me in the face, and I am ashamed of them. I have a real regard for you, Sir Harry, and am under various obligations to your friendship: no way in my power I can so effectually return them as advising you to lay aside all dishonourable schemes on Miss Belville. Believe me you will spare yourself an infinite deal of pain by it. The time will come when you would resign all hopes of happiness here, to undo some actions of your life. Forgive my speaking so freely; but my nature recoils at the idea of another woman's being reduced to Miss Ayscough's situation. In every thing that is not dishonourable, you may command your very sincere friend and humble servant,

THOMAS MONTAGUE.

Miss SOMNERS to Miss BELVILLE.

Montpelier.

AS I know my dear Adeline is desirous of being informed of the most minute circumstance that may happen to her Louisa, I will set down every thing that occurs, and by the first opportunity dispatch my packet to England. Soon after I wrote my last letter to you, my father was prevailed on to leave Venice and come to this place, where we arrived safe without any thing happening material enough to relate. Soon after we were settled to our satisfaction, I had the happiness of perceiving the health of my beloved parent greatly mended. The change of air and difference of objects had a pleasing effect; and I observed he was more chearful and happy after he had been here a fortnight, than I had known him for a great while. He seemed to remember my mother with the same grief, but it was more resigned. He often spoke of her in the highest strain, and without that excessive melancholy he always experienced in England for a long time after any one mentioned her name. Sometimes he would say, "I have hardly missed my Elvira, she still lives in my Louisa; thy tender affiduities, my daughter, have so kindly supplied the place of my
amiable

amiable wife, that they have brought me back from her peaceful urn to wish for life. I am now resigned to the dispensations of providence, and only think my Elvira has taken a journey a little before me, where, in a few short years, I shall surely follow her; again be reunited to her virtues in a blessed eternity, never to be separated more. I no longer grieve that she was called hence so soon; her goodness merited an early reward: it was the will of her creator. Ah! may her patient resignation to the supreme commands, inspire me with resolution to follow her bright example in the hour of trial, and I shall be happy. I thank heaven, that it has enabled me to attain a frame of mind like this. The tender efforts of my Louisa and my other kind friends, will be no longer disregarded; I am again reconciled to life." Thus does my father talk. I cannot convey to you by words an idea of the satisfaction my heart experiences at this agreeable alteration. As his mind became tranquil and serene, his health amended, and by the time we had been a month in the south of France, I had the pleasure to see him near as well as ever I knew him. I know what infinite satisfaction you will feel when you read this account. I judge of my Adeline by the feelings of my own bosom. Are we not one? when did the sentiments of thee and thy Louisa differ? Under the same kind

roof, our friendship grew; the same forming hands led our young minds to virtuous knowledge, and the same house contained us: brought up together, each shared the other's troubles. When infancy confined our minds to childish recreation, we were still inseparable: the same pursuits engaged our little hearts, and where you met with one, you surely found the other. Like two young lilies blooming on the plain, nursed by one bounteous hand, they grew together, and threw their gentle influence wide around; dressed in their native innocence, they raise their spotless heads in gratitude to heaven, and shine the snowy sisters of the sylvan shade: mean while the gaudy crocus rises round, and, with the yellow hue of jealousy, beholds the humble friends, envying beholds; regardless they bloom on, the favourites of nature, emblems of her own sweet simplicity. Content, they live protected by the goddess of the spring, who guards their tender frames with leaves of glowing green: thus, would my dear mother often say, bloomed forth her matchless children, beauteous and spotless like the lily. Oh, Adeline, her tender partiality to us both, dwells on my mind with pleasing recollection.

When we had, been here a month, my father was so much better, he proposed we should share in the amusements of the place, which had hitherto been neglected. We had
made

made no material acquaintance in France, as I had staid constantly at home, and my father had not been well enough to go out much; but he now attended me to see every thing that was worthy observation. This day, as we were coming from Mass, my father was accosted by an old gentleman whom he did not recollect immediately. "My dear Somners," said the stranger, "have you forgot your friend De Revi-ers?" "How!" cried my father, "do I behold the Marquis De Revi-ers?" "You do, upon my honour," answered he, "and he rejoices to see you in France: how is Mrs. Somners?" "Alas! my Lord," answered my father, "she has long since joined her kindred heaven; but this is her living representative: My Louisa has all her mother's virtues." "She has her beauty," answered the Marquis, "and I cannot pay her a greater compliment than to say so. Your mother, *mademoiselle*, was the loveliest woman in France, when she honoured it with her presence." I bowed and blushed, "Your daughter, Somners," continued the Marquis, "is the finest girl I ever beheld, (taking out his glass, and looking in my face.) The young gentlemen will have no chance if they behold the lovely Englishwoman." "You are very obliging, my Lord," answered my father; "my girl has qualities superior to her

beauty." "They must be great, indeed, if they are," replied he; "but you will favour me with your company at my house: I shall be happy to see you and your daughter; I wish to hear what has happened to you since our separation." "I am as impatient in that respect as yourself, my Lord," said my father; "and if you are disengaged, will do myself the pleasure of waiting on you to-morrow." He said he should rejoice to see him; and, with more encomiums on my person, we parted.

As soon as we came home, I asked my father how he became acquainted with the Marquis? "My dear Louisa," said he, "it is now above twenty years ago since our acquaintance commenced. Soon after my marriage with your mother, my brother, Colonel Somners, was ordered abroad, as we were then at war with France. He had been united a great while to a very amiable woman: they had no children, when he was destined to leave the kingdom; she was determined to accompany him, notwithstanding the persuasions of her friends to the contrary. The evening I took leave of them I shall never forget. My Elvira parted with them in London, but I attended them to Dover. She would have gone, but as she was with child, her physician thought the shock would be too much for her.

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The evening before they set sail, the Colonel addressed me thus : " My dear Will, (said he) you have always been the best of brothers, as well as friends : I am going to leave you, perhaps never to behold you more ! If I should fall, promise me you will bear my poor Maria safe from the hostile land of France. When you hear of my death, fly instantly to her relief, and with your excellent Elvira, try to comfort her." I assured him, if we had the misfortune to lose him, I would immediately come over, and fetch Mrs. Somners safe to England. " But, Edward, (said I) why do you suffer your mind to dwell on such melancholy ideas ? I hope you will return in triumph ; and we may all be happy." " I hope so too, (answered he) but you know the chance of war is uncertain, and I may fall ; therefore I would, in that case, preserve every consolation for my poor Maria.---Do not imagine, brother, I am melancholy at the prospect of fighting ; no, I rejoice at this opportunity of serving my country, for whom I would resign my life with pleasure. I have no fears but for my wife ; I know what she would suffer at my death." Indeed, Louisa, he said true ; he had no fears ; he was incapable of fear ; no man was ever braver than your uncle ; and none had finer feelings ; he was an honour to his country ! Here my father stopped, and wiped his

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eyes.

eyes. I wept aloud, but begged him to proceed with his melancholy story, as I had never heard the fate of my unhappy uncle.---“ My dearest Louisa, (answered he) I seldom mentioned my brother in your hearing, as it only occasioned disagreeable ideas: but now the sight of the Marquis has sufficiently done that, I will proceed to tell you the whole circumstance. —The parting between my brother and me was dreadful, as you may imagine: I held him in my arms, my prophetic soul then foretold for the last time: Maria shared in our woe; and for a time I was insensible to every thing. At last, the Colonel breaking from me, exclaimed, “ adieu, my brother! this weakness ill-becomes a soldier.” He hastily left the room, and I saw him no more. I took a tender leave of Mrs. Somners, and with a heavy heart set out for London. The affection of Elvira, and the birth of you, my dear girl, banished, in a great degree, the sorrow I felt for the loss of the Colonel. We had two letters from him, after his arrival in France; the last was wrote in high spirits, the evening before the two armies engaged; the young man appearing in every line, he was impatient for the battle; alas, too soon it came! the next day’s sun beheld his brave exploits, but on his early worth ne’er rose again. That fatal day he fell; the blooming Edward found an honourable grave, and

and by his grateful country was sincerely lamented among her noblest heroes. This melancholy news reached us two months after it happened; and I then proposed going to France, as I had promised the Colonel, whose death both Elvira and myself severely felt. Accordingly we sat out, leaving you, then an infant of three months old, to the care of Sir Edward, and Lady Belville. We arrived safe at Paris, and immediately sought the gentleman who had sent us the intelligence of the Colonel's death. He was gone into Flanders; we followed him, and fortunately found him. I eagerly enquired where Mrs. Somners was: he told me he could not tell, but believed she had left the French dominions immediately after her husband's death; that she had not been heard of since. I was very much shocked at this account, and determined to search all over France but I would find her. I did so, but searched in vain; no traces could I find that might discover her. On our return from one of these vain pursuits, we met the carriage of the Marquis de Reviers: ours, by the ill-management of the driver, was run against it, and broke all to pieces. As we were a great distance from a town, the Marquis offered us a conveyance in his: we joyfully accepted it, and went with him to Paris. The civility of this action made me desirous of being acquainted

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ed with him, of which he heartily approved, and introduced me at Versailles, where I was received with the utmost politeness by the French Monarch. We passed a most agreeable half year at Paris, during which time I made every enquiry after my sister, but no tidings could I learn of her. The Marquis grew extremely fond of me, and never was happy when he was out of my company; he was a very agreeable man, and I spent a great deal of time with him. My Elvira was taken much notice of by the Lady of the Marquis, who was a most beautiful and accomplished woman. They had one son about four years old, of whom they were doatingly fond. (I forgot to enquire after him to-day, but I hope he yet lives.) The countenance and esteem of a family so noble was very agreeable to us; and if we had our little Louisa with us, we should have staid much longer; but as Sir Edward would not consent she should run the hazard of a voyage, we determined to return speedily to England, having resigned all hopes of finding Mrs. Somners. We told our resolution to the Marquis and Marchioness, who expressed the greatest regret at our leaving France. We parted with mutual concern, and they promised to visit us the ensuing year in England, and in the mean time to make every enquiry after Mrs. Somners:

-In the year 1740, the Marquis and Marchioness were at the age of 20.

accordingly they fulfilled their promise, and spent six months with us.

“ Nothing could exceed the joy my Elvira expressed at again beholding her Louisa; my happiness fell little short: had it not been for the melancholy thought of what Maria might undergo, helpless and unprotected, I should not have had an uneasy moment; yet sometimes I could not help thinking we should again behold her; but the arrival of the Marquis and Marchioness in England, effectually eradicated those ideas, and I supposed she was dead. They told me they had made every possible enquiry, but no such person was to be found. My gentle wife and I gave many a tear to the memory of our brother and sister, whom we concluded were both inhabitants of a better world; nor has any thing happened from that day to this to change that opinion. Setting this circumstance out of the question, I do not think there was a happier set of people together than we were. The Marquis and Marchioness were under the same roof with us; Sir Edward and Lady Belville never let a day pass without seeing us: the Marchioness would frequently observe, she never saw such lovely children as we could boast. They had their little son with them, and my Adeline and Louisa generally formed the beautiful party.

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“ The return of this amiable pair to France, gave us the greatest pain, and we all mutually agreed to visit each other alternately. We put this in practice for three years, and in the intermediate time regularly corresponded. The death of the Marchioness interrupted this friendly intercourse, and by degrees we left off writing; a variety of circumstances happening to prevent our renewing it, which was often wished by me; as I had not heard from the Marquis for a long time, I imagined he was dead, and never 'till this morning was undeceived.”

Here my father ceased, and I thanked him for his entertaining narrative. I could not help paying a tribute of tears to the misfortunes of my uncle and aunt Somners. Ah, dear Adeline, what uncommon distress! I dare say the unhappy Maria, soon after her husband paid the debt of nature, had she been living she must have been known; for by the variety of ways my father took to find her, she could not have remained concealed. This very evening your letters were brought me: thank you, my kind, my affectionate Adeline, for your expressions of tenderness both for thy Louisa and her father. Omit not to send all you write to Miss Abinton afterwards to me, as every thing that relates to you is consequential to me. I shewed your packet to my father;
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he was delighted with it: he intends writing to you himself, and will best express his approbation. Surely, my amiable friend, you are too rigorous to the gentlemen drawn so amiable: Has not either been able to touch your heart? ah no! that heart is dead to love. I blame thee not, my dearest girl; and yet 'tis pity so sweet a character should not shine in soft domestic life; but yet, my Adeline, thy own superior understanding will best direct you.

Charles in his letter intreats my interest with you in favour of the Earl, from himself intreats it: he draws him in a striking point of view; pictures his love in the most affecting colours. What can I say, knowing as I do the circumstances of your former life? If your mind still dwells on the merits of your Augustus; (as I believe it does) I cannot say a word for the Earl; but if you can recal your thoughts from the silent tomb, and once more fix them on the gay scenes of life, your gentle heart may in this nobleman find a tender, passionate admirer, fully sensible of your merit. But forgive me, my dear Adeline; I am too well informed of your disposition to suppose you would change your resolution of living single; nay the very letter before me so lately wrote, might convince me the thought was ridiculous; however, I have performed the
request

request of Captain Freemer, in saying all I could for Lord Arundel. Again forgive me for pleading in favour of the Earl; he must be unhappy as well as Sir Edward. How unfortunate their fate! but could it be otherwise? They must have loved my Adeline, and she never could have returned it. Ah, my dear girl, your beauty and superior endowments will make more unhappy. I know it pains thy gentle breast to inflict uneasiness, but nature has made you so very lovely, you cannot expect to pass through life without many troubles of the tender sort. I thank you for having brought my violent Charles to reason: tell him he has obliged me beyond words by complying with my injunctions. I referred your opinion to my father about the original difference in the capacity of human creatures; he will send you his sentiments on it. I agree with you in this as well as in most other things. When my father had considered that part of your letter, he said, "Why, Louisa, this Adeline is a very pretty philosopher; I must answer this matter at large when I have an opportunity." I must break off, Adeline, but will resume my pen.

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We have been here a whole month, and I have wrote no more than to this place; but I have

have been so engaged in attending the happy recovery of my father, I have not had time to do any thing. To-day, according to appointment, we went to the Marquis de Re-
viers's house : he expressed the utmost happiness at the sight of us, and introduced to us the young Marquis. His son received us with the natural politeness of his nation. " Is it possible, my Lord Marquis, (said my father) this young gentleman can be your son, that but a few years ago was my guest in England?" " The same, Somners, (replied the Marquis, sighing) he was once the inhabitant of your house when his dear mother lived; this boy was the companion of your Louisa and the blooming Miss Belville : how does she do? Is she as lovely as she promised to be? Are her amiable parents living?" " Alas! (answered my father) the worthy Sir Edward and his lady are now no more; Miss Belville is well, my Lord, and one of the finest women in the world; she was left by her excellent father to my care, but having a dependance on a whimsical relation, who insisted she should not go out of the kingdom if she wished for his fortune, she was reluctantly obliged to stay in England." " I should be happy to have seen her, (answered he) I loved her father and mother,

ther, they were both amiable, I regret their death sincerely."

These recollections seemed to cast a gloom over them both, and had it not been for young de Reviers, we should all have been very melancholy; but he, by his sprightliness and agreeable conversation, made the day pass away pleasingly: he was polite to me, and full of compliments, as the French generally are. The old Marquis and my father were a good deal engaged in recounting the several circumstances that had befallen them since they had last seen each other; during which time the young Marquis attached himself to me. He was very inquisitive about the customs and manners of England, which I described to him as well as I could. I found by his conversation he had read much, and was very sensible: setting aside a great gallantry of language, he was more of an Englishman than a Frenchman; a serious disposition, and philosophical turn, rather uncommon, appeared in him: a most enthusiastic admirer of music and poetry, in both of which he excels. To sum up his character in few words, I never met with a more accomplished nobleman: joined to the graces of the mind, he has added the graces of knowledge. The old Marquis has given him a very liberal education; and by his application he has made the most

most of his advantages. Are you not curious, my dear Adeline, to know what sort of person these intellectual perfections are cloathed in? Why, lest you should blame your Louisa's neglect, I will give you the out-lines.----In the first place, he is tall, and well made; a good complexion (for a Frenchman) intelligent black eyes; his other features are regular; he is, in general, thought handsome; but I rather think he comes under the denomination of perfectly agreeable. He attended me about the house and gardens, which are very fine: the utmost elegance of taste appeared throughout the whole. He told me his father was obliged to reside in that part of France on account of his health, which has been for a great while declining. "Do not you regret the necessity of your quitting Paris, my Lord?" demanded your Louisa. "Not at all, Miss Somners: the gaiety and dissipation that prevail in that city, do very well for a time; but they are ill calculated for a thinking mind. I often go there to see a sister of mine, who is in a convent; but my stay is never very long." "Has your sister taken the veil, my Lord, or does she only reside there for improvement?" "She has not yet taken the veil, madam, but will very soon; notwithstanding the uneasiness my father and myself have expressed at it. The de-

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luded girl believes nothing else will make her happy. You cannot imagine, Miss Somners, what infinite pain her resolution of passing her life in a cloister has given me: for a time I strongly opposed it; but she declared no motive on earth should prevent her taking the veil. Finding our persuasions vain, both the Marquis and I reluctantly consented. Setting aside this unhappy bigotry to a secluded life, she is a most amiable woman. When she had obtained our consent for her to follow her inclination, you would have thought her frantick with joy; heaven grant she may not repent her choice!" "I hope not, my Lord: as it is her fixed and deliberate choice, I should imagine no other way of life would make her happy." "Why really, Miss Somners, I rather think so from her obstinate perseverance to this resolution from infancy. She was unfortunately placed early in a convent, after the death of my mother, for whose loss my father was inconsolable: and as the guide and protectress of his daughter was gone, he placed his little Agnes with the abbess of a neighbouring monastery, where she now is. As this lady was a relation, and particular friend of the late Marchioness, she took uncommon care of my sister, who grew so extremely fond of her, that when my father would have taken her home, she begged to stay: not foreseeing the disagreeable consequence of his
in-

indulgence, and being satisfied with the progress she made in her education, he consented. She never left the convent but with regret, and always expressed the greatest detestation to gaiety, and sighed for the time that would restore her to the peaceful serenity of the cloister. Too late my father saw his error, and would have detained her in the world, if possible; but seeing her health decline, he suffered her again to visit her beloved seclusion, and at last has consented she should take the veil. I regret more than ever her situation; for had she been here, she would, most likely, have made herself agreeable to you, madam, and have had the honour of knowing the loveliest woman in France." "You are very polite, my Lord; I should have been very happy in the acquaintance of your sister: if she resembles in the least the rest of her family, she must be amiable." Soon after this, we returned to the Marquis and my father. We passed an hour longer with them, and took our leave. The old Marquis insisted we should be at his house as long as we stayed: young De Reviers seconded the request. At last my father was prevailed on to promise he would come in three days to stay with them. The old Marquis, after having thanked him, turned to me; "Well, *ma chere Mademoiselle*, what say you?" "I shall always rejoice to attend my father, my Lord," answered I, "especially

pecially to the house of the Marquis de Riviers." "How do you find yourself, my Lord?" said the Marquis, turning to his son; "are you not captivated with this fair young lady? for my part, I find my heart in a strange flutter." Then kissing my hand, he thanked me for my politeness. "I do not wonder at your Lordship's feeling; the power of such united perfections, (answered de Riviers) every one who sees Miss Somners, must own he beholds the master-piece of nature." I bowed. My father was delighted to hear his Louisa commended. We took our leave with regret, and returned home.

This morning the young Marquis came to enquire after my health, and to offer his carriage and attendance, if I pleased to take an airing. As I thought it might prove beneficial to my father, I consented. We had a delightful excursion. When he took his leave, he intreated we should hasten our visit to their house; and my father promised, the day following the next, we would wait on them.

I will write on, my dear Adeline, all that happens at the Marquis's, as I know it will amuse you. But I must bid you adieu, as I have just heard a ship sails for England the first fair wind. I will write a few lines to Captain Fremer, and therefore must break off, after

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desiring you to accept the most affectionate love from my father, and your ever obliged and sincere friend,

LOUISA SOMNERS.

Miss SOMNERS to Captain FREEMER.

(Inclosed in the preceding.)

Montpelier.

YOUR letter, Captain Freemer, was the greatest consolation to my heart, though several parts of it gave me infinite pain. How could you entertain a thought that your Louisa was capable of inconstancy? No, Charles; I shall never withdraw those affections your merit gained. The light, volatile disposition of the French, is by no means calculated to engage my heart, was it unprejudiced; and, as it is, were they the most amiable people in the whole world, they would not shake my regard for you; a regard my reason approves. If it should please heaven to prevent our union, I should for ever renounce the idea of a second engagement. The heart once truly attached, is not to be bestowed a second time. I hope these assurances will satisfy you, and that you will not again pain my delicacy by insinuating doubts of my stability. I thank you for con-

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forming to my injunctions ; they were meant to benefit both. The disposition of Sir Richard justified the steps I took. Knowing you as I did, it would have been madness to have informed you of my intentions : I might reasonably have supposed, you would, by declaring your passion to Sir Richard, have involved yourself in difficulties. I was likewise convinced, if such an *ecclaircissement* had taken place, my father would never have bore the idea of an objection being made to an alliance with his family, by any man living. Wealth he regards not ; and for the partiality of a parent, all must allow. He would have thought his Louisa, with the fortune he could give her, an equal match for the son of Sir Richard Freemer ; and as your father makes money his chief object, was it not right to proceed as I did ? You say you now see my conduct in its proper point of view ; I am glad you do : it has given me many uneasy moments when I have reflected what you must have suffered. Believe me, I have more than shared your uneasiness. The same motive that induced me to keep the circumstance of my leaving the kingdom a secret from you, made me forbid you declaring your passion to my father. His scrupulous ideas of justice are such, that he would have immediately forbid your hopes when he had been in-

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formed of Sir Richard's disposition; I therefore thought it better to spare myself the pain of obeying commands my heart pleaded against; and, by an innocent concealment, prevent us the misery of a separation. I know well my dear father would do any thing in his power to contribute to my happiness; but he would refuse the offer of a prince, if he imagined he did not esteem him his equal; and as my fixed determination is never to give him a moment's pain on this head, had he refused the proposals of your father (providing he had been brought to make any) I should have acquiesced in it; but by the method I have proceeded in, we have avoided the painful trial: and as we have acted with rectitude, it may please heaven to favour our mutual inclination; and the sanction of our friends may compleat our happiness: but if it should not, we must learn to support our lot with fortitude. Of this be assured, no man but yourself will ever be esteemed by me in a tender light, let his merits and recommendation be what they will.

I share in your uneasiness for the indisposition of Sir Richard: may heaven restore him to you, as it has graciously done my amiable parent to me. I can now, with certainty, pronounce my father is better than he has been for many years; and I flatter myself he will continue so. The air of France has done for him what no-

thing else was capable of. On that account we shall stay longer here, I believe, than we at first proposed. He has met with an old friend, whom he imagined long since dead, the Marquis De Reviers; I dare say you have heard of him when you was in France. We are going to stay at his house. There is a strong friendship between the Marquis and my father; he expresses much happiness at being with him; and, on that account, I rejoice. Perhaps you have heard the Marquis has a son; in case you should not, I will here mention it. He has, indeed, an amiable son, allowed to be the most accomplished nobleman in France: but for all your Louisa is going to reside under the same roof with him, you need not fear his perfections will make any impression on her heart. Believe me, Freemer, 'tis sufficiently guarded; therefore, though all France may adore his merits, I shall see them with the cold eye of esteem.

You wish to be informed why Miss Belville refuses every tender application; I am not at liberty to inform you the particulars of her motives: only thus much I may reveal, the amiable Adeline has had a disappointment, a cruel disappointment, which has rendered her incapable of experiencing a second attachment. And though I have said all I could for the Earl, as you desired it, I am certain it will be with-

out effect : she is not to be shaken. She esteems both Lord Arundel and Sir Edward, but she will never marry either ; I am sorry for them, they are worthy and amiable men, as drawn by the dear girl herself. I have seen all the letters she wrote to Miss Abinton, from the first day of her being at Mrs. Evelin's, to the time she wrote her last letter to me ; I am, therefore, very well acquainted with them. She expresses the utmost pity for them, and acknowledges she esteems them as brothers, but she can do no more. I am charmed with her behaviour to them. Indeed I do not know such another character as my Adeline's. Her amiable resignation in the midst of her greatest conflicts, was amazing. With all the tenderness and female softness that ever woman was endowed with, she has a firmness and steadiness of mind that would not disgrace a philosopher. I very well know all efforts would be in vain to move her in favour of these gentlemen ; and therefore would advise you not to plead for the Earl. You would only pain the gentle Adeline, but not shake her resolution. She has told him she cannot regard him as a lover ; and however hard it is, he must abide by her determination.

I entirely pardon your insinuations, Freemer, so do not be uneasy about that ; they did, I dare say, proceed from the excess of your love ; but

as I flatter myself you will be convinced, from what I have said, they are without foundation, you will no more torment yourself, nor me, with such ideas. I would have wrote you a much longer letter, but I am pressed for time; the ship only waits for my packet, and a wind to sail: I must therefore bid you adieu, after assuring you I am, and ever will be, your very sincere

LOUISA SOMNERS.

P. S. You had better enclose your letters in Miss Belville's, for fear of any disagreeable accident. I would have wrote before, but waited till I sent her's: once more adieu.

Mr. SOMNERS to Miss BELVILLE.

Montpelier.

I FIND, by my Adeline's letter to my daughter, she wishes to know my sentiments on a subject, on which she has so elegantly expressed her own. When was it Miss Belville made a request that was not by me immediately granted? never but once, and that was refused for her advantage; and I trust it will prove eminently so. I congratulate you on the fortune of Admiral Harrison being disposed of to you: I well know it is not a single benefit that will arise from it, but the heart of many will

will have reason to rejoice at your affluence. I thank you for your enquiries, and tender anxiety after my health: I am, thank heaven, quite restored. Louisa tells me she has given you the particulars, and I need not repeat them. Your entertaining letters, my Adeline, have made many hours of my time pass away very agreeably: but yet I think you are rather too grave for a young woman: indeed, by your letters I should think you in the decline of life, instead of a fair blooming bud. I grant, you have had things happen that might cast a gloom upon the mind for a time; but this adherence to gravity for so many years after the misfortunes you lament, is extraordinary; and yet, you support the serious character so well, and are so amiable an example of patient meekness, that I should regret a change of disposition in you, tho' I think there should be one. Do not imagine, from what I have said, that I condemn you; far from it; I only mean to hint a little more gaiety would not injure you. You should not, my dear child, give up the hope of happiness here, because you have once been hurt: you are yet far too young to resign the innocent enjoyments of life. You were formed for domestick comforts; why then, my Adeline, should you resign all thoughts of moving in that amiable sphere, when in the Earl, and Sir Edward, the virtues of your Augustus again

survive?—But I will say no more on this head; I well know the heart is not to be commanded. Your requesting my opinion on a matter you so well explained yourself, flatters my vanity: however, as you wish for my sentiments, I will give them to you with pleasure. Had the original state of nature, my dear Adeline, been preserved, and had mankind never swerved from the innocence and happiness of their primitive creation, you may depend upon it, there would have been an equality, as well in the endowments of the mind, as in the personal appearance. Even now, as you justly observe, there is a greater equality than many of us are willing to allow. The pride of education is apt to depreciate uninstructed wisdom; and by the mere force of an acquired rhetorick, set the abilities with which nature has adorned some of her sons, in a contemptible light. The greatest natural powers will meet with but little encouragement from the world, unless those powers have been improved by a classical education: as if the knowledge of a little Latin and Greek could so improve the man, as to make him the public admiration; when, without that single advantage, he would be looked upon as insignificant, and illiterate; nor would any of his productions meet with a reception in the world, be their merit ever so great; because he was ignorant of the dead languages.

You

You find, therefore, Adeline, my sentiments correspond with your's on this head: I do indeed think our greatest difference arises from education; at least our reception in the world; for tho' a man were a pope by nature, he must have gone through the ordinary course of knowledge before he would be esteemed. I have often lamented, and still continue to lament, this partiality of judging; for, although I allow the advantages of education to be very great, yet, that a man who has had the misfortune to be deprived of them should be esteemed less meritorious in writing a good thing, merely because he has not been through a public school, or spent some time at the university, is very hard: but the consequence of knowledge in weak minds is an affected pedantry; and as the generality of your critics are no more than insufferable pedants, we need not be at a loss why this notion has, by degrees, crept into the world: as now-a-days, every man sets up for a critic, and by the dint of impudence, and a smattering of knowledge, absolutely decies of men ten times their superior. But, Adeline, you have applied to an old man for his opinion in a case you understand better yourself: long unaccustomed to contemplations of this sort, I am hardly able to form a judicious judgment on them. In my commerce with the great world, I frequently was disgusted: I saw modest merit

disregarded, and often despised; while pedantry, folly, and impudence obtained the most advantageous reception from those in power. Before I was married, I often amused myself by attending the levees of great men: in one of my visits to the house of a leading man in the political world, I met with a circumstance that prevented my entering his doors again. As this event will entertain you better than the stiff opinions of an old fellow, I will give it you.

---I observed a gentleman, about 30 years of age, constantly at the same hour attending the great man's levee, and by the little notice that was taken of him, I conjectured he had some demand to make on the purse or interest of the noble Lord. He often was obliged to depart without being able to say a word to him, as he endeavoured to avoid him as much as possible.

The poor man had a melancholy depicted on his countenance that affected me extremely: one day I followed him out, and seeing him turn towards the park, I joined him. "I hope sir, (said I) you will not think me impertinent, if I enquire the reason of your frequent visits to ——— square? I ask not from a mere motive of curiosity, but a desire of serving you." "I have met with so few instances of friendship in my life, sir, (answered he) that I eagerly embrace the most distant prospect of being blessed with a friend. I am convinced,
by

by your appearance and address, you are incapable of insulting an unhappy man, who has, all his life, been the sport of fortune; and at this present hour labours under the united troubles of a generous heart and a dependent situation."

"You do me justice, sir, (answered I) in supposing me incapable of offering an insult to any one in distress; I should detest myself if I was. Whatever your misfortunes may be, if it is in my power, I will alleviate them."

"I thank you, sir, (replied the poor man, his eyes moistened with his feelings) I have been so long a stranger to such generosity that it affects me sensibly. I will with pleasure relate to you the business that calls me at present to town, and has often called me." I told him I should be happy to be informed. He went on as follows:

"I was brought up to the church: my father had a very good living in his own gift; but the incumbent dying before I was old enough to take orders, he suffered a gentleman to hold it for me till I came of age. This gentleman was brother to the nobleman at whose house you saw me; and, at the time he had my living in trust, he was possessed of one worth seven hundred a year. My father had the greatest reliance on his integrity; and believing me sufficiently provided for, left all his fortune to his other children. He died before I was old

enough to be fixed in my living; but earnestly recommended me to Dr. ———.

“When I had taken proper orders, I applied to him for a restoration of my own, but he absolutely refused to give up the living, saying I had not the least right to it, as my father had bestowed it on him long ago. Shocked at his villainy, I told him I would expose him to the whole world, and force him to resign what was mine by every law of justice and honour. “As for that, young man,” replied he, “I care not for your threats; no law in this kingdom can oblige me to give up my living, and I defy you to do your worst.”

“Half mad with disappointment, I left his house, vowing revenge. I returned home in a state little short of distraction, deprived of every present subsistence. I well knew it was not in the power of my family to do any thing material for me, without greatly injuring themselves, and I therefore determined not to accept any thing from them. To add to my misery, I had long been in love with a very amiable woman, whom I had married privately about two months before my leaving Oxford. Depending on my easy situation, I regarded not her want of fortune, and had the poignant reflection of knowing I had involved an innocent wife in the most exquisite distress.

“My

"My dear Eliza was with child, and I feared lest the shock she would receive, might, in that dangerous situation, deprive her of her life. Such was the sorrow I felt, that I was more than once, spite of the remonstrances of my conscience and religion, tempted to destroy myself; but the idea of what would become of my Eliza, deterred me, and I was resolved to try what I could do by mildness. I therefore wrote to the Doctor in the most pathetic manner I was capable of, representing my miserable situation to him; conjured him, if he had the least regard for my preservation, he would give up the living. I fondly hoped the affecting colours I had painted my situation in, would have had that effect; but his answer to my letter, effectually dashed these hopes. He told me he wondered at my confidence in laying claim to any of his livings; that he would never resign his right in it; and that for all my ill usage, he would take compassion on my helpless wife, and put me in a curacy of 65 l. a year..

"What could I do? I had no house, no prospect of provision for my poor Eliza, who now grew very near her time. Though my heart detested his baseness, yet I was obliged to accept his offer. Accordingly I wrote to him, and promised I would do my best to discharge my duty to the parish he was going to put under

der my care; and that I was ready to leave London whenever he chose.

"I cannot express, sir, to you, what conflicts I underwent on this acceptance; nor would I ever have done it, though I had starved, but for my unhappy wife. We went to the village, where we found an agreeable and convenient habitation. One of my brothers advanced me a sum of money to support me till my salary became due; and here my beloved Eliza was in a short time delivered of a son. The birth of this boy for a time made me forget my sorrows; but when I reflected I had no means of properly educating him, I was almost beside myself. When my wife was well enough to bear a discovery, I informed her of my real situation, which I had before carefully concealed. She received my melancholy intelligence with the greatest resignation, and told me, if I could bring my mind to be content with our humble fortune, she could, and would do every thing in her power to make my hours pass away agreeably. For seven years we lived in this manner, with difficulty making our poor pittance scantily support us; and had it not been for the economy of Eliza, it would have been utterly impossible. About this time I was informed the Doctor had a brother who enjoyed a considerable post under government, and I was advised to apply for his interest. Accordingly I came

I came to town, and represented my case to him in the distressful point of view it deserved; he heard me with patience; said if it was true, it was shocking; that he would do all he could with his brother; but he did not think him capable of acting in such a manner; that if I would come to town in about two months, he should have more time, and then he would serve me if he could. Accordingly I came, but found I had nothing to hope. He kept me near a fortnight, and promised, if I would see him in the following winter, he would spend some time with his brother, and try to move him in my favour; begged my pardon for having given me so much trouble, but that he had been so much engaged by public business, that he could not attend to private concerns. I returned to my poor Eliza with a heart almost broke. She endeavoured to comfort me as well as she could; but the remarkable cruelty of my destiny had so damped my spirits, that I was little short of madness. Soon after we received a letter from the Doctor, with orders that I should immediately prepare to quit the curacy, for he would no longer protect a man who had by villainous falsehoods sought to set an only brother against him. This stroke was a masterpiece. We were now turned out, without friends or money to preserve us: however I determined to obey him; and accordingly took leave of

OUR

our neighbours, who expressed the utmost grief at our departure, and again set off for London, where we took lodgings. With difficulty I supported my family by copying for the book-sellers : my Eliza gained a trifle by her needle, when she could get any work ; and so we lived for four months. I often attended the great man's levy, but never could get him to do any thing for me. My hapless wife and innocent children (for I have four) now languish under the miseries of indigence, and I am nearly desperate."

Here the poor man ended his melancholy recital ; and so much was I affected with the villainy that caused his troubles, that I was unable to speak for a great while. After I had recovered myself, I assured him I would do every thing in my power for him, and begged him to bring his unfortunate family to my house. He accepted my offer with expressions of the most lively gratitude. They continued with me for near a twelvemonth, during which time a living dropped, in my gift ; it was situated in the pleasantest part of Yorkshire, and a clear three hundred a year. This I presented to the worthy Mr. Villars, where he now lives happy in a state of tranquil contentment. Thus, my dear Adeline, have I filled up my letter with the misfortunes of a very good man, in whose fate I was greatly interested. I will not make any apologies for taking up your time, as
I am

I am well assured you will receive a satisfaction to find, at last, this unfortunate gentleman was blessed with a competency.

My stay at Montpelier will be longer than I intended, on account of the Marquis de Re-
viers. Adieu, my dear child; believe, where-
ever I am, I shall still feel the same affection,
for the good Miss Belville; for I am her very
sincere friend and humble servant,

WILLIAM SOMNERS.

Miss BELVILLE to Miss ABINTON.

Myrtle-Grove.

I Send you, my dear Harriet, the packet of
my Louisa, which has given me the greatest
pleasure. The health of my amiable guardian
is entirely re-established. You cannot imagine
what joy this circumstance has given to your
Adeline. I am now in hopes of attending this
good man with all the tenderness of his Lou-
isa, when she has given her hand to the wor-
thy Freemer, watching his declining years, and
by my care and assiduity, softening every una-
voidable calamity. Are you not interested in
the fate of the unhappy Mrs. Somners? The
amiable Colonel met an early doom! Alas!
what can have become of his mourning Maria?

but

but I agree with my Louisa in supposing she soon after left this abode of mortality.

I am infinitely surprized at your silence, Harriet; I hope both you and your mother are well; you cannot imagine how uneasy I have been on this head. I beg you will relieve my anxiety by assuring me you are in health.

Since I wrote last, I have sustained an unexpected disappointment by the sudden flight of the girl whom I had so inconsiderately figured to myself under the influence of gratitude. I must acknowledge this circumstance has indeed mortified me very much. I little thought she would have acted so unworthily; but I will inform you of the particulars of her unaccountable behaviour. Yesterday, as I was taking the air with Mrs. Evelin, I proposed calling at the cottage with an intention to have introduced my rustick to her. She consented, and ordered the chariot to stop when we came within sight of the lowly habitation. As soon as the old woman saw me, she exclaimed, "Good Jack! I am glad your ladyship is come; I have been wishing for you a great while; but, indeed, the fault was none of mine." "What do you mean?" (said I, interrupting her) "how does your guest?" "Oh lord; madam, I know not how she does; for she has left my house." "Left your house!" said I; "with whom?" "Why, I will tell you, madam: soon after you

you was gone the other day, there came a fine gentleman, dressed out, and asked who you was; I told him I did not know your name, but that you was an excellent lady; and so just as we were talking, the poor girl you relieved screamed and fainted. The gentleman went to her, and lifted her from the ground: he seemed a good deal shocked; and the young woman said she knew him, and that he was a relation of her's, and ordered me to leave the room. I did so; and the gentleman stayed with her a great while, and then came down and told me to take care of her, that she was very well acquainted with him; and so, madam, the gentleman went away. In the afternoon, the young woman told me to go to town, and bring her something, for which she gave me the money; and when I came back, she was gone. In the room where she slept, I found this note; but as I cannot read writing, I do not know what it is."

To my kind Benefactress.

" THINK me not ungrateful, most excellent lady: alas! my situation was truly affecting. I was obliged to fly from your goodness, or desert my wretched boy! Pity, dearest madam, my conflict; and believe, while life remains in this unhappy bosom, I shall

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“ shall ever retain the deepest sense of your exquisite benevolence.”

When I had perused this note, I turned to Mrs. Evelin, to whom I gave it. “ Alas, madam! (said I) what must the poor girl have undergone, before she could act thus?” “ As to that, Adeline, (said she, returning it) I rather imagine she has suffered nothing in this case: had she been properly affected by your goodness, and I must say, ill-considered bounty, she would never have left this peaceful solitude with the rascal who seduced her, (for that was certainly the case, by what this woman tells you).” “ Indeed, I fear so, madam, (answered I) but you see what she says, she could not resign her child: poor thing! her trials must have been very great. I heartily forgive her: I would have done all I could for her; I wish she may meet as kind a protector in the man she has left me for.” “ Your disposition is certainly very good, Miss Belville; but you see, in this case you have been imposed on, and for the future, I hope this may warn you against over-indulgence to the apparent misfortunes of others. The flight of this girl, my dear Adeline, is a strong confirmation of her guilt.” “ Pardon me, madam; but I do not think so; the apology she has made in her note is sufficient; and I dare say nothing but the

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the fear of losing her child, of whom she is very fond, would have induced her to have left this sequestered spot, and again put herself in the power of her seducer." "Time, Miss Belville, (answered Mrs. Evelin) will rectify these notions; and nothing but experience can properly bind your diffusive disposition: but we have no longer any business here; if you please, we will return to the grove." I replied I was ready to attend her; but before we quitted the cottage, I told the old woman if she should again meet with her late guest, she might promise her, in my name, every assistance in my power to bestow. All the way home, Mrs. Evelin expatiated on the baseness of this woman. Sir Harry met us at the gate, and handed us from the chariot: his sister told him what errand we had been upon, and the disappointment I had sustained. He said he was not surprized, tho' very sorry for the ingratitude my excellent heart had met with. As I did not wish to hear any more of their sage remarks, I left them together, and retired to my library in the grove. I had not long enjoyed the pleasures of solitude, when I was surprized by the appearance of Lord Arundel: He apologized for his intrusion with his usual elegance, and appeared overcome by the tumultuous feelings of his soul. What I dreaded happened; he again declared he could not live

live without me; and with all the fervency of the most impassioned fondness, conjured me to pity him. With the strictest sincerity I assured him, I pitied his unfortunate attachment. But alas, my compassion would not cure his anxiety! Oh, my Harriet! why am I fated to occasion anguish to those I esteem? Poor Arundel appears really miserable! I think it would be better, if I could persuade him, as well as Sir Edward, not to see me so often, it only encreases their conflicts: would to heaven I could calm each turpid emotion that destroys their peace. They are both so uncommonly amiable, I would do any thing to restore their happiness: but I fear, if they do not conquer their unfortunate passion, they will never again enjoy the delights of tranquillity. My reflexions at this moment are very sad: the situation of those gentlemen, and the flight of the unhappy cottager, hangs on my spirits. She, I fear, is in the hands of the vile man who seduced her! alas, what evils may she not suffer! I am shocked, and sometimes think her ungrateful. But yet, my Harriet, what could she do? her child threatened to be taken from her, if she did not consent. Had she refused, perhaps he might not have put his threats in execution; but from a man so cruel, what had she not to dread? I feel for this ill-fated woman more than I can express; and was I again

to meet with her, would do every thing in my power to serve her. But I will no longer take up your time with this melancholy affair: I have a violent head-ach, and must bid you adieu. Let me have a letter speedily; and believe me, dearest Harriet, your very sincere and affectionate

ADELINE BELVILLE.

Miss ABINTON to Miss BELVILLE.

Elmwood.

YOU conjectured right, my Adeline; I have been a good deal engaged by a slight indisposition my mama was afflicted with. She is now quite recovered, and I sit down to relieve the anxiety of my friend. I condole with you on the disappointment your heart has met with, by the unhappy recluse, whom I think more to be pitied than blamed. What a situation was she reduced to! your benevolence did every thing to serve her, but it was not possible. Perhaps some remains of love for her betrayer led her astray: but vain is conjecture; she is gone, and we cannot develope her motives. Since I wrote last, I have been introduced to the Miss Thompsons: they received me very cordially, and said I should be an honour to their family. These ladies possess many peculiarities, but have very good hearts, and are worthy women.

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I sometimes think Sir James makes too great a jest of them, especially the youngest; she is rather ill-natured, and he plagues her sufficiently. At first, she seemed not to approve of me, tho' I believe merely out of opposition to him; but now I am upon very good terms with her: I am for ever at the park, or they with us. The other day I was introduced to a number of people as their niece elect; and really, I have not been more entertained a good while, than last Monday: Sir James fetched me early in his chariot. When we had been at the park about an hour, our visitors arrived: Sir Robert Arthur, his sister, and son, were old acquaintance of the Miss Thompsons, but the rest were entire strangers. Mr. and Mrs. Sydley, with two Miss Stanhopes, daughters of Mrs. Sydley, by a former husband, completed the party; and had I a mind to be satyrical, I have good opportunity; but the foibles of others should not be ridiculed: I must give you a few of their out-lines, to make you acquainted with them. Mr. Sydley is in the army; a very handsome man, and entirely answers the idea I have of a modern fine gentleman: Mrs. Sydley is not distinguished by any beauty of person, but rather the contrary; she is much older than her husband, and very fat: she appears fond of him, but he treats her with the most mortifying neglect. Indeed, Adeline, I felt for her more
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than once during the day. The two sisters are totally different; Miss Stanhope is haughty, and appears ill-natured; but Emilia is all gentle affability: Mr. Sydley seems to have no regard for any of them, but this young lady, whom he treats with the greatest humanity; she has the misfortune to be disliked by both her mother and sister, and on that account is very unhappy. I was greatly pleased with this amiable girl, and entreated her to favour me with a visit at Elmwood, when we parted. Mr. Sydley promised to bring her in a few days, and Mr. Arthur said he would do himself the honour of attending her. I should say a word of this gentleman, who is honoured with a large share of Sir James Thompson's friendship; he really appears to merit it: he has the greatest affection for Sir Robert, who is very particular, and whimsical, as well as his aunt. To both he behaves in the properest manner; and for this single virtue he ought to be esteemed: but Sir James tells me he has many traits in his character, that renders him infinitely worthy. In four days after my introduction to this family, Mr. Sydley and Emilia came to the wood, with Sir James, and Mr. Arthur: I was very glad to see them, and we spent a delightful day together, in the course of which I discovered a *tendre* between Mr. Arthur and Emilia. I am very glad of it, as he has the
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prospect of a large fortune, and she will, by such a connexion, be rescued from the power of her mother. She said she should think herself happy, if I would honour her with a share of my regard. I told her it should not be my fault, if our intimacy was not improved, that I should be in town in the winter, and would introduce her to the greatest ornament of our sex. She expressed her acknowledgments in the most unaffected manner, and we parted with regret.

Observe, Adeline, I bespeak your friendship for the gentle Emilia; I dare say you will be greatly pleased with her. I am sorry you have been again solicited by Lord Arundel, as it pains you; but, upon my word, you cannot expect to escape solicitation, as Miss Somners says you are so very lovely, that many troubles of this sort you will unavoidably meet with. I am impatient to hear more of the young Marquis de Reviers: Louisa draws him so much unlike a Frenchman, that I am greatly interested in his favour. Continue to write every thing that befalls you, and depend upon hearing from me whenever it is in my power. I long for the time that will bring me to see you: Sir James talks of leaving Ashley-park early in next month; but he says he will delay it as long as he can, that he may not be long separate from his Harriet: he is the best, and most
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affectionate of men. I am infinitely happy, my Adeline; continue to me your friendship, and with the other blessings I enjoy, no one's lot of felicity will be greater than that of

HARRIET ABINTON.

Miss BELVILLE to *Miss* ABINTON.

Myrtle Grove.

RECEIVE my acknowledgments, my dear girl, for your last obliging letter: your happiness gives me the most heart-felt delight; may it continue, and no clouds intervene to damp your satisfaction! I am interrupted, but will resume my pen presently.

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I am returned to my usual employment, not in very high spirits: I am going to lose Miss Duncannon. She called to inform me she had determined to spend some time with Mrs. Aimworth; my Lord and Sir Edward were with her; I enquired if they were going? "No, child, (answered Charlotte) unless they chuse to go behind the chariot as footmen, for the inside will be filled with my boxes. Now if they had any spirit, they would contend for the honour of putting up the step of my equipage, or, like knight-errants of old, ride by

my chariot-wheels with drawn sabres, ready to dispatch every giant that should dare interrupt my progress; but they had rather stay ingloriously here, and each day have the happiness of beholding your castle-walls, than hazard their lives in defending the charms of my ladyship. Why, Adeline, would you believe it? I was forced to beg, as if for an alms, before I could make them come with me to-day; nor do I believe I should have got them out of the Abbey at last, had I not told them where I was going. Well, heaven defend me from such stupid animals!" "Upon my word, Charlotte, (said my Lord) this is ungenerous; were not Sir Edward and myself particularly engaged in writing, or we should not have hesitated a moment to go when you first proposed it." "Writing! (answered she) what business can you have to transact, just as if a Lord ever did any thing?" "Why Charlotte, I had accounts to settle, in which Sir Edward was concerned." "Was there ever such a stingy creature? what, you do not keep a steward to settle your accounts, but do it yourself! Why, Harry, you are an arrant miser; Adeline, I am glad you did not marry either of these wretches; depend on it, they would not have let you had money enough to buy your parrot meat; I am ashamed such overgrown misers should be seen in my company. But I'll tell you

you what my Lord intends to do to improve his estate; Sir Edward and he are to be partners; they have both an equal genius for the business they intend to follow, which is no other than to commence taylors; they were certainly cut out for it; nay, I have heard Medway will spend a couple of months with them to learn to make his own clothes."

In this strain she run on for half an hour, not suffering the Earl or Sir Edward to say a word. When she took her leave she was a good deal affected, and begged me to write to her. The gentlemen said they would call on me in a few days, and inform me how Charlotte got to Mrs. Aimworth's, as they should see her safe. "There, Miss Belville, (said she) I have shamed these obstinate young men out of their rudeness; I shall persuade them by-and-by not to disgrace their families by turning taylors, but that is a future consideration, as their shop is not yet ready." She took a polite leave of Sir Harry and Mrs. Evelin, and again begging I would write, left us.

I confess her departure made me very melancholy: Sir Harry and his sister did all in their power to remove it, and fought by a variety of ways to amuse me. I was almost ashamed of myself for giving them so much trouble, and endeavoured to be chearful. He proposed we

should take a walk; I consented to go, and we rambled a great while, 'till we came to a small farm-house. "If you will give me leave, Miss Belville, (said Sir Harry) I will just call in here, and enquire after the health of a poor man, who has been ill a great while." I immediately consented, and he knocked at the door. A decent-looking young woman opened it: "how does your father do, Molly?" (said he) "Much better, sir, and impatient to thank you for your goodness; if you will please to walk in, I will tell him you are here." "I will take some other opportunity of seeing him, (replied Sir Harry) but at present I am engaged; I only wanted to know if he was mended." "Do, pray, walk in, sir, (said the girl) my poor father will almost break his heart if he knows you have been here, and not seen him." "I beg, Sir Harry, I may not hinder this charitable visit, (interrupted your Adeline) if you wish to see this person alone, I will walk slowly towards the grove; you will soon overtake me." By no means, Miss Belville, (replied he) if it will not be too great a trouble for you to stop half a minute, I will just look in upon Farmer Hawthorn."

He took my hand, and led me to the door of a small room; the young woman opened it, and entered first. "Father, (said she) here is the gentleman that sent you the money." "Let me

me see him, Molly," answered a faint voice. She approached the door, and led us forwards. A pale, meagre figure, was seated in a great chair at the upper end of the room, who made an effort to rise, but Sir Harry prevented him. "Sit still, Mr. Hawthorn, (said he) this lady will excuse it." "Sir, (answered the sick man) how much am I obliged to you for your bounty!" "No more of that, (replied Sir Harry) if it did you any service, I am glad of it: I called to know how you did; and if you want any thing else you shall have it." "I thank you sir, (said the poor man) I have all I wish at present, and as long as I live shall pray for your honour." While they were speaking, I drew the daughter aside, and put my purse into her hand; "provide your father with every thing he wants, my good girl; and if that is not sufficient, I will give you more." She seemed amazed; but I bid her say nothing about it. We soon after left them, and I enquired how Sir Harry found out their distress. He told me the poor man had been turned out of his farm by an oppressive landlord, to whom he owed fifteen pounds, for which he threatened to arrest him every day: that his servants had informed him what a situation he was in, he therefore advanced the money, or the farmer must have gone to gaol, ill as he was. I congratulated him on having preserved an innocent

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family from ruin : and we returned to the grove well pleased with our walk. I can answer for myself ; and Sir Harry appeared so. This circumstance has rose him very much in my esteem. How amiable is benevolence ! I did not think Sir Harry capable of feeling so much pleasure at a thing of this nature as he did. It proves, my Harriet, we cannot be too cautious in forming opinions of the dispositions of others. From the conversation I had with him on my behaviour to the poor girl at the cottage, I should have thought he was incapable of acting in almost a similar manner. Why should he wish to restrain my charity to her, when he has been nearly as liberal to the farmer ? That appears a contradiction ; but yet, I dare say, it proceeded from a good motive, and I am obliged to him for it.

Adieu, my dear Harriet ; I am the last person up in the house, and finding myself sleepy, I will write no more than

ADELINE BELVILLE.

*The Right Honourable Earl of ARUNDEL to
Colonel MEDWAY.*

Belmont-Abbey.

BY this time, Medway, you are blessed with a sight of your adored Charlotte. When we left her, she consented Mr. Aimworth should let

let you know she was at Beach-Grove. I have an event to relate that has deeply interested me ; but to proceed in order. On our return, Sir Edward and I determined to go and call at Myrtle-grove. Miss Belville was in her library, as she always is in the morning. Thither we went : she perceived not our entrance. She was leaning her head on her arm, her eyes intently fixed on the same picture I had seen before : she wept not, but sighed several times : she appeared beautiful beyond any thing I ever beheld ;---an intelligent sensibility beamed on her countenance, and she looked like something divine. Sir Edward stood wrapt in astonishment, his eyes fixed on Adeline, and his arms crossed one over the other. I was no less charmed with her appearance, but had more resolution. “ What shall we do, Wilmot ? ” said I, softly. I asked this question more than once before he answered me. At length he said, “ I know not : that angel has rooted me to this spot. ” She raised her eyes to heaven, then fixed them tenderly on the picture : “ Alas, my Augustus, (said she) I do not wish thee again in this vale of misery, thou art far happier ; but if thou can’st know what passes in this globe, thou see’st thy Adeline true to thy memory. Not even the virtues of two of the most amiable men now existing, has been able to change my resolution. Still will I love

thee; nor shall that heart, that once was thine, be ever given to another." She, sighing, put the picture in her bosom, pulled out her handkerchief and sobbed aloud. No longer able to contain himself, Sir Edward burst into the room, and throwing himself at her feet, exclaimed, "For heaven's sake, Miss Belville, tell me who the happy man is, for whom you shed so many tears!" I followed his example, and taking her other hand, "If you wish to see us live, (said I) tell us the cause of your sorrow: we have heard your lamentation, tell us for whom you weep. Surely, madam, the love I have long felt for you, may claim this single consolation." "And may not mine, madam, ask the same privilege? (said Sir Edward) Refuse not, Miss Belville, to satisfy our curiosity." She wiped her eyes, and holding out her hand, "Rise, my Lord, if you have any regard for me: kneel not, Sir Edward, if you wish me to think you love." "Say, then, you will reveal to us the secret sorrow which preys on your peace." "I will, (said she); rise, I intreat you, and you shall know what you wish." We seated ourselves by her on the sofa, and, after some hesitation, she proceeded thus:

"Accident, my Lord, has in a manner discovered to you and Sir Edward, what I intended for ever to conceal; but I have engaged

to

to satisfy your curiosity, and will keep my word. The affection both you, gentlemen, honoured me with, perhaps demanded this explanation before, in order to account to you for my so absolutely declining offers so eligible in every respect, but I could not bring my sad heart to lay open the wound it had received; nor could I bear the idea of telling either of you the circumstances of my former life. You have now surprized me in an unguarded moment, and have a right to know what you desire. It is not in my power to relate verbally what has happened to me from infancy; as in many parts the task would be too distressing for my spirits. I have written the most material events down, and will, if you please, give you the paper to peruse to-morrow morning." We both thanked her as our feelings directed, and begged pardon for our intrusion. "Apologize not, (answered she, addressing herself to both) I have given you an unlimited right to see me at all times in this retirement, as friends: you saw me looking at a picture (continued she, taking it from her bosom with inimitable grace) 'tis the likeness of the most amiable man that ever lived." She laid it on the table, and withdrew to the window. I took it up; it was a miniature resemblance of the most beautiful countenance I ever beheld. Augustus Greenville was written on the back of it. We ap-

proached towards her; but on seeing our intent, she returned to the sofa, and begged we would be seated. Sir Edward gave her the picture; she looked on it, and again put it in her bosom. "Condescending Miss Belville, (said he) how shall I thank you?" "Our whole lives, madam, (interrupted I) will not be able to express the gratitude your generous behaviour has inspired us with." "You are not obliged to me, (answered she) I have embittered the days of both: you will find in the paper I shall give you, a sad relation of misery; I hope it will induce you to ask my love no more: I cannot grant it; and therefore intreaties only occasion additional uneasiness to a heart depressed by anguish. I have often told you I should esteem you as long as I live; but I shall never love any man." She instantly changed the discourse, and asked after Charlotte. When we took our leave, I wished to say something more of the history she had promised, but did not know how to introduce it; she observed my anxiety, and relieved it. "What time tomorrow shall I have the pleasure of seeing you, gentlemen?" (said she), as early as you please I shall have my paper ready." We again thanked her, and returned home. All the way, Sir Edward and myself talked of her generosity, and the thousand amiable qualifications she was mistress of. "Never, Arundel, (said

my

my friend) shall we 'meet with a woman like her." Indeed, Medway, I think so. The circumstances of her life must have been very uncommon, to have occasioned a gravity like her's. That she has loved, is clear; alas! no hopes remain for me: she has once violently loved; what can I expect? indeed, what had I to expect before? I have nothing to accuse her of: she has been all amiable ingenuity and goodness. She told me I had nothing to hope; she had no heart to give me. What will become of me, I know not; I long, yet dread to see this account. But why should I? it cannot augment my despair. She will never love me; she cannot; and I must learn to bear my misfortunes with magnanimity. Sir Edward and I spent the day in talking over our interview with Miss Belville; and when we parted, I found my thoughts too much engaged to permit me to sleep. I sit down to inform you of this circumstance. I will endeavour to gain Miss Belville's consent that you should see the paper she intrusts to our inspection. Good night, George, I will not close this till to-morrow.

* * * * *

Well, Medway, I have seen this manuscript, and have obtained leave from Miss Belville to let you read it. You are to shew it to Charlotte,

lotte, and when you have done, send it back, as Sir Edward and myself have not sufficiently perused it.

I am hurt beyond words at what she has gone through. Amiable sufferer! But I will make no comments till you have read it, but inform you in what manner Miss Belville gave it us. We went immediately after breakfast to the grove, and were admitted to the beauteous girl. Her eyes were the semblance of sorrow; she held the paper in her hand. "I have been, my Lord, (said she) this morning, reading over what I wrote long since, when my grief was very violent." Then turning to Sir Edward, "You must allow, Sir Edward Wilmot, for the acute and forcible expressions you will meet with, and remember it was wrote by a girl under the most heart-trying calamity. The same allowance I have to petition from your Lordship: I have not altered a tittle of what I formerly wrote, depending on your indulgence." She delivered the paper into my hand, and smiling, continued, "I will not detain you from the gratification of your curiosity." "May I not suffer my friend Medway to see this manuscript, madam? (said I) "Certainly, my Lord; Colonel Medway, Mrs. Duncannon and Charlotte may, if they please, look over it. I promised Miss Duncannon long ago an explanation, which that will give her ;

her; but I should esteem it a favour, if you would shew it to nobody else. Sir Edward and you may keep it as long as you please. I have nothing to do with it now: the time has been when that was my only recreation; the melancholy task of reading over that painful recital, my joy and recreation. But I have learned to be more resigned; and though I feel my sorrows, I do not indulge them as formerly. It may seem to you amazing that I should write a history in which I was so much concerned. The chief motive that induced me to adopt this method was, that I found my grief somewhat abated after I had been writing any part of it. This may appear to you absurd and girlish, but it was a real consolation to me." Here she stopped. We expressed our acknowledgments, and returned to the Abbey.

I inclose the history; read it to Charlotte, and let us have it as soon as possible. Adieu.

ARUNDEL.

“AS an amusement for my melancholy, I mean
 “to write down the history of my life, as far
 “back as I can remember. If this paper should
 “ever fall into the hands of any of my friends,
 “they will reflect that the singular method of a
 “girl, hardly seventeen, setting down an ac-
 “count of what had befallen her, was adopted
 “by one who had early felt the stroke of adver-
 “sity; a stroke unexpected and sudden; that
 “she found, by writing the particulars on pa-
 “per, a small alleviation; and though it may
 “appear remarkable, I hope it will not be
 “thought blameable.

“At six years old, I have a faint recollecti-
 “on of my mother’s death, but the particulars
 “I was too young to remember. The servants
 “often bewailed their amiable lady; and the
 “whole village lamented. One incident at this
 “distance of time, is now fresh in my imagi-
 “nation.---As I was walking in some fields
 “near the house, with the servant who attended
 “me, we met an old man who stopped, and
 “taking me in his arms, kissed me several times.
 “His beard was long and very white (which, I
 “apprehend, was the chief thing that struck
 “my childish fancy). “God bless you, my
 “sweet

weet little cherub," said he, "you will, I hope, live to make just such another good woman as your mother." The tears streamed down his venerable cheeks, and he was in an agony. "Often (continued he) have I held thy lovely mother in these aged arms, when she was no bigger than thou art; oh she was the best, the sweetest lady in the world." The violence of the poor man's grief made a lasting impression on me, and since I have had reflection, I have thought of it. As I grew older, I heard continually the praises of Lady Belville from every mouth; not a person in the village but at some time or other had shared her bounty. My father delighted in the character his Adeline had left behind her, and often used to say, "If thou, my little blossom, followest the steps of her that brought thee into the world, thou wilt be an ornament to human nature."

As I loved my father with the most unbounded fondness, I always treasured up in my memory his precepts, even at that early period. The grief of Sir Edward was excessive for the death of my mother; he declined company, and kept himself secluded. Only two families had free access at all times, and those were his most intimate friends. The Earl of Bromfield and Mr. Somners had been his schoolfellows, and the most perfect friend-ship

'ship subsisted between them. Lady Bromfield
 ' and Mrs. Somners had a sisterly regard for
 ' my mother, for which reason Sir Edward
 ' was always glad to see them; and with gra-
 ' titude I acknowledge, to these ladies I am in-
 ' debted for what few just opinions and senti-
 ' ments I possess. Their families were for-
 ' ever at Belville-park, and in their society
 ' passed some of the happiest days of my life.
 ' The children of the Earl and Countess were
 ' two sons; the eldest, Lord William, was five
 ' years older than me; and Augustus Gren-
 ' ville, four. Mr. Somners had one daughter
 ' only, with whom I was educated, and for
 ' whom I have the most perfect friendship: she
 ' was the pride and delight of her parents, and
 ' justly so. Her opening mind promised, even
 ' in its dawn, to be the abode of every virtue;
 ' and those hopes have been amply realized, as
 ' she is one of the most lovely patterns of fe-
 ' male excellence that ever existed.

' Louisa was from infancy greatly attached
 ' to me, and in that respect I was not her infe-
 ' rior, though in every other I fall infinitely
 ' short of her. We were never happy separate
 ' from each other, and our fond parents culti-
 ' vated as much as possible our growing friend-
 ' ship. The sweets of an early intimacy they
 ' had themselves experienced, and wished to

' procure it for their children. Mr. Somners
 ' generally resided in London, and Sir Edward
 ' likewise, during the life of Lady Belville,
 ' and on my account he continued to pass his
 ' winters in town with Mr. Somners's family.
 ' In return they spent half the year at Belville-
 ' park, so that his Louisa and Adeline were
 ' never separate. This method was pursued
 ' as long as he lived, and he had the consol-
 ' ation to see his two darlings perfect friends.

' The sons of Lord Bromfield were frequently
 ' with us; by the particular desire of my father,
 ' most of their holidays were spent at Belville
 ' park. Louisa and myself always rejoiced when
 ' those vocations arrived, as we were fond of
 ' their company, especially the youngest: no-
 ' thing could be more different than the disposi-
 ' tion of the two brothers; Lord William was
 ' haughty, proud, and imperious; while Au-
 ' gustus was tender, humane, good-natured,
 ' and obliging; fond of his brother, who fre-
 ' quently behaved very ill to him, tho' he al-
 ' ways found means to excuse him. But, altho'
 ' he bore the ill-treatment of Lord William with
 ' the utmost patience, yet he was fiery, and te-
 ' nacious of his honour; and while he was loved
 ' by every boy in Eaton-school, he was feared
 ' also. Tho' I was no more than nine years old,
 ' the different dispositions of these boys at that
 ' time, had a great effect on my mind. Fre-
 ' quently,

'quently, when we were at play together,
 ' Lord William would rudely snatch any thing
 ' he wanted from either Louisa or me: August-
 ' tus was always sure to make some apology for
 ' him, by observing his brother forgot he was
 ' not playing with Eaton boys. These excuses
 ' were often requisite, and he never omitted
 ' them. Louisa and I were very fond of birds;
 ' one day Grenville came running towards us
 ' with something wrapt up in a handkerchief:
 ' "I have brought you a present, Miss Belville,
 ' (said he) if you will do me the honour of ac-
 ' cepting it: I will get Miss Somners one to-
 ' morrow, for I know where to find another
 ' nest." I took the handkerchief, which I
 ' found to contain several young larks: I
 ' thanked him for my present, with which I was
 ' highly delighted; and we were proceeding
 ' towards the house, in order to deposit our trea-
 ' sure safe, when we were met by Lord Wil-
 ' liam. "What have you got there, Augustus?"
 ' (said he). "Some larks for Miss Belville."
 ' "And where did you get them?" "Out of the
 ' field next the park," (replied Grenville).
 ' How did you dare touch them, sir? (ex-
 ' claimed Lord William; his eyes flashing fire).
 ' Those larks are mine, and you shall not have
 ' them, nor Miss Belville neither." "Shan't
 ' have them, brother! (answered Augustus,
 ' colouring) what do you mean by that? I
 ' have

' have given them to Miss Belville, and you
 ' shall not take them from her." " We shall
 ' see that, sir," (answered he, advancing to take
 ' them away). Augustus turned to me:
 ' Hold them fast, Adeline; (said he) he shall
 ' not touch them. " Look you, Lord William,
 ' I never struck you in my life, but if you at-
 ' tempt to take the birds, I will knock you
 ' down, upon my soul. Had they been mine,
 ' I would have given you them with all my
 ' heart; but you shall not take them from her."
 ' Not deterred at this speech, he flew at Au-
 ' gustus, who soon laid him flat on the ground.
 ' His nose gushed out a bleeding, and he cried
 ' for vexation. Louisa and I were frightened,
 ' and ran screaming to the house, that Augustus
 ' would be killed. Our noise brought Lord
 ' and Lady Bromfield, my father, Mr. and
 ' Mrs. Sommers to the park, who eagerly en-
 ' quired what was the matter: we told them
 ' Lord William and his brother were fighting.
 ' We ran towards the spot, and they followed
 ' with all the expedition they could make. We
 ' found Lord William with his nose still bleed-
 ' ing, rejecting the offered hand of Augustus,
 ' to whom Louisa and I advanced with the ut-
 ' most apprehensions, for fear he was hurt. He
 ' assured us he was not; and was very sorry he
 ' had frightened us; but said, his brother's in-
 ' solence had put him beside himself. " Now,
 ' (con-

‘ (continued he) let us go away; there are
 ‘ people to take care of William; my conduct
 ‘ wants no justification.” Then taking a hand
 ‘ of each, he put them under his arms, and
 ‘ walked off. We went and deposited the
 ‘ birds in a cage, and got to play, when we
 ‘ were all summoned to appear in the drawing-
 ‘ room, where we found the whole company
 ‘ assembled.---“How’s this, Augustus? (said
 ‘ the Earl, as soon as we entered the room)
 ‘ how came you to strike your brother, without
 ‘ any provocation?” “I did not, my Lord,
 ‘ upon my honour; these ladies can tell how
 ‘ it happened: I should not have beat him at
 ‘ all, if he had only insulted me; but he was
 ‘ going to take something from Miss Belville
 ‘ that I had given her, and so I would not let
 ‘ him.” “Why, you have not told me a lye,
 ‘ I hope, William? (replied my Lord; looking
 ‘ sternly at him). Come hither, Adeline, said
 ‘ my father, and tell me truly how this mat-
 ‘ ter happened.” I did so; and when I had fi-
 ‘ nished, my Lord addressed his eldest son: “I
 ‘ am really ashamed to find you have been ca-
 ‘ pable of telling me a falsehood, in order to
 ‘ injure your innocent brother, who had only
 ‘ served you right, if he had beat you ten times
 ‘ more. Immediately ask Miss Belville’s par-
 ‘ don, as well as your brother’s; or I will not
 ‘ suffer you to appear in my sight this month:

‘ a boy

‘ a boy of fourteen to be capable of taking birds
 ‘ from a little girl !” He furlily advanced,
 ‘ and begged my pardon; and was moving to-
 ‘ wards Augustus, when he arose, and shaking
 ‘ him by the hand, “ my dear brother (said he)
 ‘ let us never think more of this affair : I hear-
 ‘ tily ask your pardon for the blow I gave you,
 ‘ and will ever regard you with the greatest
 ‘ respect, when you do not forget what you
 ‘ owe to yourself.” The Earl embraced him,
 ‘ and called him his noble boy; as did Lady
 ‘ Bromfield, and my father. Thus was this
 ‘ matter set to rights; and peace and harmony
 ‘ restored to our little parties; but this cir-
 ‘ cumstance so disgusted me with Lord Wil-
 ‘ liam, that I never loved him afterwards; on
 ‘ the contrary, Louisa and I grew fonder of
 ‘ Augustus than ever; and called him our
 ‘ champion. We frequently, in his absence,
 ‘ wrote letters to each other, where he was
 ‘ always distinguished by that appellation.
 ‘ When I had attained the age of ten years,
 ‘ Mrs. Somners proposed Louisa and I should
 ‘ go to school for a little while, merely to shew
 ‘ us the difference of situation; and to be im-
 ‘ proved in dancing: we were both proficient
 ‘ in other accomplishments. The master of
 ‘ the Earl’s sons had a relation, who kept a
 ‘ genteel school for young ladies, near the col-
 ‘ lege: there was fixed our residence, to the
 ‘ great

' great delight of Augustus. Louisa and my-
 ' self were equally pleased at the thought of
 ' residing so near him. After the Whit-
 ' suntide holidays we were to go; and the
 ' young gentlemen proposed themselves the ho-
 ' nour of conducting us. My dear father felt
 ' the utmost pain in parting with us; for he
 ' loved Louisa almost as much as he did me;
 ' and after many struggles, we were seated in
 ' the coach-and-six that was to convey us from
 ' Belville-park. My young heart, as well as
 ' Louisa's, was almost ready to break at this
 ' first separation from persons so dear to us.
 ' Neither Lady Bromfield, nor Mrs. Somners,
 ' would go with us themselves, for fear of
 ' hurting us too much by their sorrow; there-
 ' fore Mrs. Barnet was deputed to deliver us
 ' safe to the governess. This woman was an
 ' old servant of my mother's, and a very worthy
 ' person: she had lived with lady Belville long
 ' before her marriage, and was greatly esteemed
 ' by my father for her fidelity and affection to
 ' his departed Adeline. Our two beaux ex-
 ' erted every endeavour to console us, pro-
 ' mising to see us, and do all they could to
 ' make it agreeable to us. Before we had lost
 ' sight of the park an hour, we became more
 ' chearful; our eyes were wiped, and our sor-
 ' row forgot: the droll speeches of Augustus
 ' made us laugh; and before we reached the
 ' end

‘ end of our journey, we were quite recon-
 ‘ ciled to the change. We were received with
 ‘ the utmost civility by Mrs. Welford, (which
 ‘ was the name of the governess): Lord Wil-
 ‘ liam and Augustus would go with us to the
 ‘ house. Mrs. Barnet told her she would have
 ‘ but little difficulty in instructing us, as we
 ‘ had the best dispositions in the world, as well
 ‘ as capacities. Mrs. Welford kissed us, and
 ‘ called us pretty poppets: “You may depend
 ‘ upon it, madam, said she, (addressing Mrs.
 ‘ Barnet) I will make the young ladies’ stay
 ‘ with me as agreeable as I can. Are these gen-
 ‘ tlemen brothers to either?” “No, madam,
 ‘ (answered Augustus, before Mrs. Barnet
 ‘ could speak) we are not their brothers, but
 ‘ we love them better than any brothers in the
 ‘ world; and we shall come very often to see
 ‘ them, if you please.” “Certainly, sir, (said
 ‘ Mrs. Welford) I shall always be glad to see
 ‘ you: are you at school near us?” “Yes,
 ‘ madam; (answered Lord William) only at
 ‘ the College: we shall call to know how you
 ‘ do to-morrow, if you will give us leave, la-
 ‘ dies.” “I shall be glad to see you, my Lord;
 ‘ (answered I).” “And so shall I, (said Lou-
 ‘ isa):” They embraced us, and bid us adieu.
 ‘ “If she does not use you well, Adeline, whif-
 ‘ pered Augustus) we will bring all our boys,
 ‘ and pull her house down.” Mrs. Barnet re-
 ‘ com-

' commended us to the care of Mrs. Welford in
 ' the most particular manner, desiring we might
 ' sleep together; and taking a tender farewell,
 ' again-seated herself in the coach, and returned
 ' to Belville-park. This caused a fresh flood
 ' of tears; but they were soon dried by the ten-
 ' derness of Mrs. Welford, who led us into
 ' the school, and introduced the young ladies
 ' to us; who one by one advanced, by her com-
 ' mand, and welcomed us to Eaton. This
 ' scene, entirely new to us, engaged our atten-
 ' tion, and we forgot our sorrow. When this
 ' ceremony was over, we were seated on one of
 ' the first forms; and here a different kind of
 ' wonder appeared to us; the children got whis-
 ' pering to each other; and as the school was
 ' broke up, they collected round us. "La!
 ' (says one) what a fine sattin coat!" "Ah,
 ' (says another) what a pretty cap for every
 ' day! did you ever see so fine a frock?"
 ' What are their names? (cried a third)."
 ' Mine is Somners, (answered Louisa, think-
 ' ing they spoke to her)." The girls looked
 ' foolish. "Was you never at school before,
 ' miss? (said one of them to me)." "No,
 ' madam; (answered I)." "Then I will shew
 ' you where to put your trunk, if you please."
 ' "For shame, ladies! (said a pretty little girl)
 ' how can you be so troublesome?" "Upon
 ' my word, Miss Abinton, (replied the one she
 ' ad-

'addressed) no-body's more troublesome than
 'yourself." We were filled with astonishment
 'at their behaviour; and glad to find one less
 'curious. The appearance of this young lady
 'was very pleasing; and she behaved so well
 'to us, that she soon gained our confidence.
 'We told her of the visitors we expected the
 'next day; and what a good-natured boy Au-
 'gustus was. "Pray let me see them; (an-
 'swered she) for I want to know if either of
 'them is the young gentleman our ladies call
 'Adonis." "No, (replied I) his name is Au-
 'gustus Grenville." "Ay, his name may be
 'what it will, (said she) we only call him
 'Adonis because he is very handsome." We
 'were now summoned to dinner: Louisa and I
 'were placed next Miss Abinton; with whom
 'we were already very intimate. By her means
 'we soon became acquainted with the whole
 'school; and before we went to bed, we were
 'as well satisfied with our situation as if we
 'had been used to it all our lives.

'The next morning the servant informed
 'our governess, Lord William Grenville and
 'his brother wanted Miss Belville and Miss
 'Somners. She ordered us to go down into
 'the parlour, and the maid would shew us the
 'way: but she being out of hearing, Miss
 'Abinton offered to go down with us: she
 'gave her leave, and away we went together.

‘ O yes, (said Miss Abinton, as soon as she
‘ saw Augustus) that’s him, I do assure you.
‘ They were very glad to see us; and brought
‘ us as much fruit as they could carry. We
‘ introduced Miss Abinton to them, as our
‘ friend; and we were the happiest party imagi-
‘ nable. Augustus was very inquisitive to
‘ know of her what sort of a woman Mrs. Wel-
‘ ford was. She gave her an excellent cha-
‘ racter. “ I am glad of it, (answered our
‘ young champion) for if she had not been a
‘ good sort of woman, I have founded a num-
‘ ber of our boys, and we would have rescued
‘ you from her power, or lost our lives in the
‘ attempt.” I have laughed many times since at
‘ this declaration, which I then thought the
‘ strongest proof of bravery he could give.
‘ We all very seriously thanked him for his
‘ intention, but told him that there was not
‘ the least occasion to put it in execution.
‘ “ Very well, (said he) but any time she should
‘ presume to controul you, only give us a hint,
‘ and we will be with you in a minute.” Lord
‘ William confirmed what his brother said, and
‘ we thought ourselves better defended than
‘ ever any girls were before. Often since we
‘ have grown up have we talked over their brave
‘ intention, and our dependance on it, with
‘ the greatest pleasure. We passed a year and
‘ a half at this school, without any occurrence
‘ hap-

' happening, material enough to relate. We
 ' were greatly beloved by the young ladies,
 ' as well as Mrs. Welford, and regularly
 ' went home in the holidays. We were
 ' received by our parents with the utmost de-
 ' light: Lord William and Augustus brought
 ' several of their schoolfellows with them to spend
 ' their vacation at the park; Louisa and I like-
 ' wise obtained Mrs. Abinton's permission for
 ' Harriet to pass some time with us one holiday.

' When we had been two years at Eaton, we
 ' were to have a grand ball, at which many
 ' of the young gentlemen of the College were
 ' to be present; among the rest, Lord William
 ' and Augustus. Miss Somners was to have
 ' my Lord for a partner, who was grown very
 ' polite, and I Augustus. As we were now
 ' great girls, we considered what dresses we
 ' should have on this important occasion: after
 ' much consultation, we both fixed on white
 ' and silver. My father presented me with a
 ' set of diamonds that was Lady Belville's, and
 ' as there were a great number, I divided them
 ' with Louisa by his consent.

' The long-expected day at length arrived,
 ' and we were all assembled, dressed forth, in
 ' the dancing-room. About six the gentlemen
 ' came; Lord William was dressed in the most
 ' elegant stile, and Mr. Grenville not inferior.
 ' They were both in high spirits, especially

244 FEMALE STABILITY.

‘ Augustus: he told me the whole school had
 ‘ been contending who should have the honour
 ‘ of dancing with me, and that he had ended
 ‘ the contest by declaring he had my promise
 ‘ for that pleasure. My Lord was as polite to
 ‘ Louisa, and we were perfectly happy. Miss
 ‘ Abinton danced with a young nobleman
 ‘ lately come to Eaton; and, altogether, this
 ‘ ball was the most agreeable I ever was at in
 ‘ my life. Augustus, who had now attained
 ‘ his sixteenth year, was the handsomest youth
 ‘ I had ever beheld. I remember that evening
 ‘ was the first time I thought him exquisitely
 ‘ handsome, or had taken any particular notice
 ‘ of his person; but he was so remarkably
 ‘ striking this night, it was not possible he
 ‘ should pass unobserved. He had on a stone-
 ‘ coloured coat, lined with pink sattin, waist-
 ‘ coat and breeches of the same; round the
 ‘ waistcoat was a row of spangles worked thick
 ‘ in the tambour; his hair, which was direct
 ‘ auburn, flowed in natural ringlets down his
 ‘ back. The elegance of his dress set off his
 ‘ fine person to the greatest advantage. He
 ‘ was tall for his age; his eyes were dark, the
 ‘ most expressive I ever beheld; they were
 ‘ shaded by long dark eye-lashes; his eye-
 ‘ brows were of the same colour, and most de-
 ‘ licately arched; his nose perfect aqualine;
 ‘ his mouth by some might be thought rather
 ‘ too

' too wide, but as his teeth were uncommonly
 ' beautiful, that was a fault the less observed;
 ' his complexion was very fair, but so ex-
 ' tremely florid, that it was not the least effe-
 ' minate; when he spoke or smiled, he had the
 ' most heavenly appearance imaginable. Such
 ' was the person of Augustus Grenville the
 ' night he first appeared handsome in my eyes:
 ' his sweetness, good-nature and sprightliness,
 ' were the admiration of every one. We danced
 ' till late, and separated unwillingly. Louisa
 ' and I talked of his appearance when we re-
 ' tired, and she declared she never beheld such
 ' a figure in her life. I rejoiced to find her sen-
 ' timents correspond with mine, and the next
 ' morning we renewed the theme. I saw Au-
 ' gustus constantly two or three times every
 ' day; he declared he was never happy but
 ' when he was with us. Lord William did
 ' not favour us with so much of his company,
 ' as he was fond of shooting and other country
 ' diversions, in which he generally spent great-
 ' est part of his time.

' Soon after this ball, Miss Abinton received
 ' a summons to return home, as her mother
 ' could no longer bear her absence. This cast
 ' the utmost damp over Louisa and myself, as
 ' we really loved her extremely: she was a
 ' very accomplished girl, and, like us, only
 ' came to school to improve herself in dancing.

‘ She begged I would always write to her, and
 ‘ continue to love her as she would me. To
 ‘ Louisa she said the same, and we promised to
 ‘ preserve a constant correspondence with her.
 ‘ The morning so much dreaded at length ar-
 ‘ rived; we were all assembled in the school-
 ‘ room, when Mrs. Welford addressed us thus :
 ‘ “ I am happy to find, my dear children, the
 ‘ departure of this amiable girl affects you as
 ‘ it does ; it proves at once your goodness of
 ‘ heart as well as sensibility ; you have all loved
 ‘ each other as Christians ought, and I flatter
 ‘ myself more than one perfect friendship has
 ‘ been formed beneath my roof. I have done
 ‘ all in my power to cultivate the good prin-
 ‘ ciples nature has implanted in your hearts,
 ‘ and I have the happiness to find all of you
 ‘ likely to make good women. As for you,
 ‘ my dear Miss Abinton, (continued she) your
 ‘ regret at parting with your young companions
 ‘ is very natural, I am far from blaming you
 ‘ for it ; but I would have you regulate it. Re-
 ‘ member you are going to a kind and indul-
 ‘ gent mother, who will do every thing in her
 ‘ power to make you happy.” “ I know it, ma-
 ‘ dam, (answered the sobbing Harriet) but I
 ‘ cannot bear to part with you, and my dear
 ‘ Adeline and Louisa.” “ I do not expect you
 ‘ should be unmoved, Miss Abinton, answer-
 ‘ ed Mrs. Welford) at parting with any of us,
 ‘ especially

' especially those two young ladies. The great
 ' affection you have for them, is the strongest
 ' proof you can give me of your understand-
 ' ing, as they are uncommonly amiable; but
 ' as you must all expect to meet many severe
 ' disappointments in this life, you should learn
 ' early to support trials and difficulties. De-
 ' pend upon it, my good children, however
 ' advantageous your situation may be in life as
 ' to birth or fortune, you will not be exempt
 ' from troubles incident to our nature. This
 ' separation, to your young imaginations, ap-
 ' pears a great evil: true, you are deprived by
 ' it of the pleasure of seeing, and conversing
 ' with each other for a time; but how much
 ' harder would it be, if this was a final part-
 ' ing? and that parting must come. Reflect,
 ' young ladies, that although you are at pre-
 ' sent very well, have youth and health to flat-
 ' ter you with a long continuance here, how
 ' soon may these prospects be overclouded, and
 ' your course finished ere it is hardly begun.
 ' A proper notion of the uncertainty and bre-
 ' vity of our residence here, will teach you to
 ' support the ordinary occurrences of life with
 ' patience and resignation; and by this means
 ' we shall bear every misfortune as becomes
 ' christians." She was interrupted by the ser-
 ' vant's coming for Miss Abinton. Many tears
 ' were shed at parting: nay, Mrs. Welford

‘ herself set us the example. Miss Somners
 ‘ and I promised Harriet again, we never would
 ‘ omit writing to her; and we always have ad-
 ‘ hered to that promise. She frequently spent
 ‘ a little time with us, and we returned it;
 ‘ though we never were any great while together
 ‘ after she left school.

‘ We were very uneasy for some time with-
 ‘ out Miss Abinton. Augustus did all in his
 ‘ power to alleviate it; and, by a variety of
 ‘ amusements, sought to banish from our minds
 ‘ the recent loss we had sustained.

‘ Another two years passed without any thing
 ‘ material happening. Lord Bromfield thought
 ‘ his eldest son old enough to go to the uni-
 ‘ versity; and as Augustus was the head boy
 ‘ at Eaton, the Earl said he should go at the
 ‘ same time, and therefore informed his sons
 ‘ they were to leave Eaton shortly; and that he
 ‘ had provided them a proper tutor for the uni-
 ‘ versity.

‘ As Louisa and I had been four years at
 ‘ school, and our parents wished our return,
 ‘ they determined we should leave Mrs. Wel-
 ‘ ford, when the Earl’s sons quitted Eaton,
 ‘ and altogether spend some weeks at Belville-
 ‘ Park, before the young gentlemen went to
 ‘ Oxford. This circumstance gave the most
 ‘ sincere pleasure to both Louisa and myself.

‘ We

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‘ We experienced real concern in parting
‘ with Mrs. Welford, for whom we had a ten-
‘ der affection; and, at the appointed time,
‘ again took possession of the coach which was
‘ to restore us to Belville-Park.

‘ Lord William, who was now nineteen,
‘ had a fine person; and though not near so
‘ handsome as his brother, was a very agree-
‘ able figure. The natural turn of his temper
‘ he took pains to conceal. He was very polite
‘ to Louisa and me; and though never a fa-
‘ yourite of mine, yet the elegance of his man-
‘ ners, and the particular distinction he shewed
‘ me, excited in my bosom a friendly regard.
‘ As for Mr. Grenville, he was the most ami-
‘ able of his sex; the best disposition and sweet-
‘ est temper he possessed: his affection for his
‘ brother was infinite, and Lord William ap-
‘ peared to return it. Indeed, the generosity
‘ of his behaviour must have affected any one.
‘ They did all in their power to render our
‘ journey agreeable. We were received by our
‘ partial friends in the tenderest manner. The
‘ Earl and Lady Bromfield were no less delight-
‘ ed with their sons, and we were the happiest
‘ party imaginable. Thus passed three delight-
‘ ful weeks. The endeavour of each person who
‘ inhabited Belville-Park, seemed to be exerted
‘ to make their stay with us agreeable. At
‘ length the time arrived that was to send the

' young gentlemen to Oxford. Lord William
 ' was pleased with the idea of going, but Mr.
 ' Grenville appeared unhappy. Often did he wish
 ' to stay with us at Belville-Park. We were no-
 ' less uneasy, for Louisa and myself loved him as
 ' a brother; and he merited our affection. He
 ' had sought from infancy to obtain our love
 ' by every kind and engaging method; and we
 ' indeed felt for him the most perfect esteem.
 ' Sir Edward and Mr. Somners were no less
 ' fond of him; the Earl and Countess doated
 ' on him; and although they prudently shewed
 ' no difference in their conduct to either of
 ' their children, yet Augustus possessed the
 ' greatest share of their parental affection. Al-
 ' though I was but fourteen, I felt the most
 ' exquisite grief, which I did not endeavour to
 ' conceal. Mr. Grenville expressed himself in-
 ' finitely obliged to me for my affection, and
 ' appeared infinitely more concerned than I was.
 ' The night before they left us, the Earl ad-
 ' dressed them thus; "We are all concerned,
 ' my dear boys, at the necessity of your leav-
 ' ing us; but as it is for your advantage, we
 ' submit. You are going to compleat your
 ' education. Remember, on the proper use of
 ' your time depends the future success of your
 ' lives. You have hitherto given me the great-
 ' est pleasure by the progress you have made
 ' in every kind of literature;---this is the fi-
 ' nishing

' nishing stroke. Give a proper application to
 ' your studies at the university, nor follow the
 ' example of too many you will meet with,
 ' who go to college for no other purpose than
 ' to indulge themselves in riot and excess, and
 ' return as ignorant as they went. I flatter
 ' myself this will not be the case with either of
 ' you. I hope you will return as much im-
 ' proved as you have hitherto done, and I shall
 ' be a happy man. I indulge the pleasing idea,
 ' my children, that you may become service-
 ' able to your king, and an ornament to your
 ' country. The allowance I have given you,
 ' of which I informed you this morning, I
 ' think sufficient; but if you do not, I will in-
 ' crease it as far as my fortune will admit. The
 ' difference I have made, Augustus, between
 ' your's and your brother's, proceeded not from
 ' any superiority of affection I had for him, but
 ' merely as he is older, and will, some time,
 ' have my title and estate, I thought his should
 ' be the largest; but if you are not satisfied,
 ' I will increase your's." "I beg, my Lord,
 ' you will not mention an increase, (replied
 ' Mr. Grenville) your appointment exceeds in-
 ' finitely my most sanguine wishes, nor will
 ' all the gratitude of my life be able to repay
 ' you; but what I want in power I will make
 ' up in affection." "I am glad you are con-
 ' tent, my good boy, (answered the Earl) you
 ' are

' are all I wish. Are you satisfied, Lord Wil-
 ' liam?" " Entirely, my Lord, (replied he)
 ' I desire no more." " To please you both,
 ' my dear children, (continued the Earl) will
 ' be always my delight: but suffer me to say
 ' a few words more on your conduct at Oxford.
 ' I do not expect you should act in things where
 ' your material interest is not concerned, con-
 ' trary to other gentlemen you will associate
 ' with: but do not go too far in compliance
 ' with the inclinations of others. A man should
 ' always stop short when he finds his compani-
 ' ons drawing him into too great an expence
 ' and dangerous connections. Regard not their
 ' ridicule, but nobly despise those who would
 ' lead you into situations that would hazard
 ' your eternal welfare. Be assured, my dear
 ' children, the man that would endanger your
 ' peace hereafter, would ruin it here. If you
 ' should by any means be drawn aside, and con-
 ' tract debts, do not conceal them from me,
 ' but, by an open explanation, insure my for-
 ' giveness. You shall ever find the indulgent
 ' father in me, and not the rigorous judge."

' They assured him they would remember
 ' his advice, and conduct themselves by the
 ' rules of it.

' When the Earl had ceased speaking, Lady
 ' Bromfield addressed them; " Your father has
 ' said all that is necessary for your behaviour in
 ' most

' most particulars, but has omitted one caution,
 ' which the fears of a mother would have men-
 ' tioned first. I know, my dear boys, you both
 ' value yourselves on your skill in the science
 ' of defence. The knowledge of your superi-
 ' ority in this respect, and the natural heat of
 ' your tempers, may involve you in quarrels,
 ' from which your honour cannot be extricated
 ' but by the sword. Let me intreat you both,
 ' and Augustus in particular, to keep a guard
 ' over yourselves, nor suffer the warmth of
 ' your disposition to get the better of your un-
 ' derstanding and humanity. You may ima-
 ' gine an affront is intended when there is not;
 ' and by tenaciously resenting trifles, provoke
 ' your supposed insulter (perhaps as tenacious
 ' as yourself) to seek satisfaction as the laws of
 ' custom direct. Reflect, Augustus, to what
 ' situation a circumstance of this nature would
 ' reduce your mother; my death would be the
 ' inevitable consequence of your's brought on
 ' in this way." Here she stopped, and wiped
 ' her eyes. Mr. Grenville arose, and took her
 ' hand: "Let me beseech you, dearest madam,
 ' (said he) not to suffer such ideas to take pos-
 ' session of your mind, nor imagine your Au-
 ' gustus so given up to fury. True, I will
 ' not bear an indignity from any man alive;
 ' but I will not seek to involve myself in dan-
 ' ger; I would avoid every contest where my
 ' ho-

"honour, or the honour of my family was not
 "concerned, rather than seek it; but in that
 "case, every consideration vanishes, and I
 "would vindicate it to the last drop of my
 "blood." "Ay, it is those exalted ideas of
 "honour I dread, (cried the Countess) you
 "may mistake an affront offered to your ho-
 "nour, and through that mistake lose your
 "life: be careful, my dear Grenville, or you
 "will break my heart." "Your Ladyship
 "may depend on my prudence, (replied Au-
 "gustus) and for your sake I would almost bear
 "any thing." She tenderly embraced him,
 "and turned the discourse. We passed the rest
 "of the evening very dull. Mr. Grenville
 "begged Louisa and I would rise early and take
 "our leave of him, as it would be too much for
 "him to go through all at once. We promised
 "we would. Lord William advanced to bid
 "the Earl adieu: he affectionately embraced
 "him, as did Lady Bromfield and the rest. He
 "took a tender leave of us, and hastily left the
 "room.

"The same melancholy scene was to go through
 "with Augustus; his feelings almost overcame
 "him, and he was hardly able to support him-
 "self. After having bid both his parents
 "adieu, he advanced to my father, who took
 "him by the hand with parental affection; "Go
 "on, my dear Augustus, (said he) in the same
 "method.

"method you have done hitherto, and you will
 "be the pride and ornament of your country :
 "I know not so amiable, so excellent a youth ;
 "next to my two little girls I love you." Mr.
 "and Mrs. Somners declared they loved him
 "as their own. Then coming towards us,
 "who stood like two weeping Niobes, "Good
 "night, my sweet girls! (said he) remember
 "your promise." He saluted us both, and
 "taking his handkerchief from his pocket, fol-
 "lowed his brother. A general silence pre-
 "vailed ; at length the Earl broke it: "That
 "boy (said he) is one of the best human crea-
 "tures that ever was created ; my heart is fixed
 "on him." "And mine too (replied her La-
 "dyship) I fondly hope the virtues of my Au-
 "gustus will make a distinguished figure."
 "You need not doubt it, my dear, (answered
 "the Earl) if it should please heaven to spare
 "him, he will be the honour and boast of his
 "family."

"Thus did they praise him from one to the
 "other. Louisa and I sat silent, enjoying his
 "commendations, till Mrs. Somners observed it
 "was late, and we had better retire. We un-
 "willingly obeyed her, and went to our own
 "apartment. All the night we spent in la-
 "menting the departure of Augustus. As soon
 "as it was light we arose and dressed ourselves.
 "We had not been in the breakfasting parlour

"ten

“ ten minutes before he joined us. “ How
 “ obliging, my dear girls! (said he) but last
 “ night I was too much agitated to take the
 “ leave I wished of you, which made me in-
 “ treat you would meet me this morning. You
 “ look pale and fatigued; I hope I am not the
 “ cause of it?” Indeed you are, (answered I):
 “ this first separation we find very hard to sup-
 “ port; we have been so continually together,
 “ that it seems a part of myself I am going to
 “ lose.” “ Will you always love me so much,
 “ Adeline!” “ Why should you doubt it?
 “ have I ever given you cause to think me va-
 “ riable?” “ Never, my dear Miss Belville,
 “ nor my Louisa neither: I shall be grateful
 “ as long as I live for the affection you both
 “ have for me; and let it be as great as it will,
 “ it never can equal mine for you. Time and
 “ absence, perhaps, will make a change in
 “ your’s, but it will only strengthen mine. I
 “ should grieve if either of you was to withdraw
 “ your regard for me, but I cannot expect it
 “ should always be as great as now; other at-
 “ tachments, other connexions, will banish
 “ Augustus from your hearts.”

“ He looked at me very attentively; I felt
 “ myself a little embarrassed; Louisa was not
 “ at all; and therefore answered him: “ De-
 “ pend on it, Mr. Grenville, no change in our
 “ situation will ever make you less regarded,
 “ less

' less beloved than at this moment; I can an-
 ' swer for myself and Adeline too." He kissed
 ' her hand; then turned to me: "but what
 ' says Miss Belville?" She says (returned I)
 ' Louisa has spoke her sentiments, nor will any
 ' thing change the affection I feel for you; I
 ' must first change my nature; my love has
 ' grown with my reason; approved by that,
 ' how can it alter? Perhaps, Augustus, you
 ' think me too young to have a fixed resolu-
 ' tion; but, believe me, you are mistaken; I
 ' am very clear I shall always look on you as I
 ' do now, the dearest of mankind next my fa-
 ' ther." "This assurance (answered he, my
 ' beloved Adeline, folding me in his arms) will
 ' make me leave you with comfort; I know you
 ' are not capable of changing, and that at your
 ' tender age you are more fixed and determined,
 ' than many of your sex who have numbered
 ' four times your years: but one thing more,
 ' and I am happy: promise me, when you have
 ' any one petitioning for this lovely hand, you
 ' will suffer me to know it; you are so beauti-
 ' ful, that when you appear all eyes will adore
 ' you, as well as Miss Somners; you will nei-
 ' ther remain unsolicited; and if any happy
 ' man should gain your heart, inform me, Ade-
 ' line." "Depend on it, Augustus, (an-
 ' swered I) but you need not foretel such a cir-
 ' cumstance; I have no ideas of that sort, nor I
 ' dare

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‘ dare say shall not for many years ; my present
 ‘ joy and trouble arise from you, and I have no
 ‘ doubt but it ever will.” “ I know not how I
 ‘ shall repay you both for this kindness, my
 ‘ lovely friends,” replied he. “ By returning
 ‘ as soon as possible,” answered Louisa. “ Ah
 ‘ no other way, my dear Grenville, (said I)
 ‘ will be in your power.”

‘ He looked affectionately at us for some time,
 ‘ and taking a hand of each, he pressed them
 ‘ alternately to his lips : “ Never lived (said
 ‘ he, sighing) two such noble, generous dis-
 ‘ positions ! Oh, my good girls, to part with
 ‘ you is almost too much !” He let go our
 ‘ hands, and walked to the window. I threw
 ‘ my arms around Louisa, and sobbed aloud :
 ‘ she fell little short in expressions of grief.
 ‘ Thus we continued for some time, till Au-
 ‘ gustus broke the pathetic silence : “ I hear
 ‘ Lord William, (said he) retire, my sweet
 ‘ girls, he will envy the affection you honour
 ‘ me with ; as he has no great softness of dis-
 ‘ position, he might shock you. Farewel,
 ‘ Louisa, (continued he, embracing her) forget
 ‘ me not, and still love me. She could not
 ‘ answer-----Then turning to me, “ Adeline,
 ‘ (said he ; there he paused, and put his hand-
 ‘ kerchief to his eyes a moment) adieu, (con-
 ‘ tinued he) my amiable, my angelic girl ; re-
 ‘ member more than my life depends on your
 ‘ still

‘ still loving me; I will see you both as soon
 ‘ as possible. He led us weeping to the door,
 ‘ and again embracing us, hurried into the
 ‘ room.

‘ We proceeded to our apartment, and throw-
 ‘ ing ourselves on the bed, continued silent,
 ‘ ’till we heard the trampling of horses in the
 ‘ yard. “He is going, Louisa!” (cried I,
 ‘ starting up) We both flew to the window,
 ‘ and beheld them seated in the chariot. Au-
 ‘ gustus looked up and waved his hand: the
 ‘ carriage drove away with precipitation. “Do
 ‘ you think he saw us kiss our hands, Louisa?”
 ‘ said I. “I believe he did,” answered she.
 ‘ “Then I am happy!” I burst into tears.
 ‘ “Does this grief prove you are happy, Ade-
 ‘ line?” replied my friend: alas! we are both mi-
 ‘ serable!” We continued weeping some time;
 ‘ but the hour of breakfast approaching, we
 ‘ endeavoured to calm our emotions, and make
 ‘ ourselves fit figures to appear.

‘ Here I cannot help observing, if this paper
 ‘ should ever be seen, that the pleasure I found
 ‘ in writing this part of my life, induced me to
 ‘ dwell on it. I lived over those happy and
 ‘ tranquil hours in idea, when all my sorrows
 ‘ arose from a transient separation from Au-
 ‘ gustus, or any other of my beloved friends:
 ‘ even at this moment of parting with the
 ‘ amiable youth, I was happy, compleatly
 ‘ happy,

‘ happy, to what I afterwards experienced.
 ‘ Will it then be wondered at, that in a life so
 ‘ short, and yet so full of extraordinary events
 ‘ as mine, I should wish to defer the melan-
 ‘ choly catastrophe as long as possible? .

‘ When we joined the family at breakfast, a
 ‘ melancholy gloom hung on their counte-
 ‘ nances, that kept Louisa and myself in spi-
 ‘ rits, as we found we were not singular.
 ‘ Little was said during the repast, and no no-
 ‘ tice taken of our appearance. When it was
 ‘ over, we all separated which way we pleased.
 ‘ Louisa and myself took a walk in the park;
 ‘ we stopped at the spot where the combat was
 ‘ fought about the birds; I did not chuse to
 ‘ mention it first, and we both stood still and
 ‘ said nothing. At length Louisa spoke:
 ‘ “ have you forgot, Adeline, the behaviour of
 ‘ our champion in this place, in defence of
 ‘ our larks?” “ No, Louisa, nor ever shall;
 ‘ Augustus was always the bravest creature li-
 ‘ ving; do you not remember his design of
 ‘ rescuing us from Mrs. Welford’s, if she used
 ‘ us ill? I have often thought of it.” Thus
 ‘ by degrees, and these pleasing recollections,
 ‘ we recovered our spirits, and returned to the
 ‘ house more composed than we left it. In a
 ‘ few days after the departure of Lord William
 ‘ and Augustus, the Earl and Countess returned
 ‘ to their own seat, promising the first time
 ‘ their

‘ their sons came home they would bring them
 ‘ to Belville-park.

‘ The fondness and affection Louisa and I
 ‘ met with from our parents was so great, that
 ‘ we should have been ungrateful, had we not
 ‘ been properly sensible of it: we were both
 ‘ entirely so, and had Augustus been with us,
 ‘ we should have been perfectly happy; but as
 ‘ that could not be, we still wanted something.

‘ Two months passed without any thing ma-
 ‘ terial happening, except having in that time
 ‘ several letters from Grenville. He wrote
 ‘ constantly to my father, and always men-
 ‘ tioned Louisa and me with the utmost affec-
 ‘ tion. He talked with the greatest pleasure of
 ‘ the time that should bring him to see us.

‘ This correspondence was a material consol-
 ‘ ation to us, and by degrees we grew serene
 ‘ and happy. As the winter season approached,
 ‘ we proposed to go to London, where the Earl
 ‘ and Countess then were. As soon as we
 ‘ gained the metropolis, we sought those be-
 ‘ loved friends, and were received by them
 ‘ with the utmost pleasure. Here another tran-
 ‘ quil six months passed, at the expiration of
 ‘ which time we were all rejoiced by a letter
 ‘ from Augustus, which contained the plea-
 ‘ sing intelligence that he should have the
 ‘ happiness of seeing us some time in the en-
 ‘ suing week. The joy this information con-
 ‘ veyed

'veyed to our hearts was not to be described.
 'The Earl had a letter by the same post from
 'his sons' tutor: Mr. Frankly informed him,
 'Lord William was rather gay, but that he
 'made a good progress in his studies; that he
 'feared the company he was engaged in was
 'not the most eligible, but he hoped time and
 'a proper representation would wean him from
 'any mistaken courses. As to Mr. Grenville,
 'the prudence and propriety of his conduct
 'was such, that he had gained the esteem and
 'admiration of every good man in the univer-
 'sity; that he spent his whole time in applica-
 'tion, and the improvement he had made was
 'incredible; he had several times, to his know-
 'ledge, assisted Lord William with money, as
 'he was the most generous of men. He con-
 'cluded with congratulating the Earl and
 'Countess on a son, who promised to be one
 'of the greatest and best men this kingdom
 'ever produced. The contents of this letter
 'gave the utmost delight to my father, who
 'was passionately fond of Augustus. At the
 'appointed time he came: our meeting was
 'delightful; he over and over embraced us,
 'as did Lord William, who appeared hap-
 'py to see us. Lord and Lady Bromfield
 'behaved to him with the same tenderness,
 'the same fond indulgence they did to Au-
 'gustus. The young gentlemen expressed
 'their

“ their surprize to see how much Louisa and I
 “ were growr. We were both near as tall as we
 “ are now. “ Upon my word, Ladies,” said
 “ Lord William, (as soon as our joy at meeting
 “ was over) “ you are two of the loveliest girls
 “ I ever beheld; a man needs a large stock of
 “ philosophy to look on your beauty without
 “ emotion.” “ They have both beautiful minds,
 “ my Lord, (answered my father) and those
 “ pretty faces are but secondary considerations.”
 “ In the eyes of us young fellows they are the
 “ first, (answered my Lord) and for personal
 “ perfections, these fair ones may challenge the
 “ whole world.” “ And for intellectual facul-
 “ ties too, (answered Augustus) “ If my chil-
 “ dren were to be made vain, young gentlemen,
 “ (replied Mr. Somners) your commendations
 “ would make them so; for they highly esteem
 “ you both.” Much more politeness passed from
 “ Lord William. Augustus did not say a great
 “ deal, but he looked more. His intelligent
 “ eyes viewed us with transport, and expressed
 “ the inward approbation of his soul. He whis-
 “ pered me he wished to speak with us alone.
 “ We told him to follow us into the musick
 “ parlour. He did so, and we enjoyed the most
 “ delightful conversation together imaginable;
 “ our hearts loved each other with the tenderest,
 “ the purest affection, free from any sensations
 “ the least disagreeable. He enquired if we had
 “ been

“been much in public? We told him, no.
 “Ah! (said he) those beautiful persons you
 “both possess, will make you the admiration
 “of every man who sees you, and you will
 “cease to love me as you do now.” We assured
 “him nothing would make any alteration in
 “our affection, and he was satisfied.

“If eight months had altered us, in his eyes,
 “for the better, it had him full as much in
 “ours. He was grown, if possible, handsom-
 “er; he had lost that appearance of extreme
 “youth he before possessed, and was now an
 “elegant young man. The doing his hair the
 “fashionable way, infinitely became his lovely
 “countenance, and he appeared an absolute
 “Adonis. As the spring was far advanced, my
 “father proposed to go to Belville-Park; no
 “objection was made by any of us, and thither
 “we went. Here our time passed in a series of
 “elegant and well chosen amusements; Lord
 “William and Augustus doing every thing in
 “their power to make our entertainments agree-
 “able.

“The Duchess of ——— had a seat near
 “the Park, and hearing Lady Bromfield was
 “there, sent word she would wait on her: ac-
 “cordingly she came. The meeting between
 “her and the Countess was very affectionate.
 “Lord William and Mr. Grenville were in-
 “troduced to her. She expressed her concern
 “that

' that her son was not in England, to share the
 ' pleasure of their acquaintance. She politely
 ' invited Mr. and Mrs. Somners to her house,
 ' as she did my father. Louisa and me she was
 ' extremely pleased with, and said she should
 ' be happy to introduce us at court. My fa-
 ' ther and Mr. Somners thanked her; but said
 ' they did not wish their children acquainted
 ' with courts; to see them happy in private
 ' life, was their ambition. The Dutcheſs gen-
 ' teelly observed, had they choſe to do her that
 ' honour, ſhe ſhould have preſented two orna-
 ' ments that no court in Europe could equal.
 ' Mr. Grenville rejoiced that Sir Edward did
 ' not accept this offer; and we were far from
 ' ſorry. At taking her leave, ſhe again ſepa-
 ' rately invited us, and we promiſed to return
 ' her viſit ſpeedily. When the Dutcheſs was
 ' gone, the Counteſs gave her the excellent
 ' character of having been the beſt wife in the
 ' world to the late Duke, who was a man of
 ' very good principles; ſhe ſaid ſhe knew but
 ' little of her ſon, but heard he was an ac-
 ' compliſhed nobleman.

' Soon after the Dutcheſs's viſit, Lord Wil-
 ' liam propoſed a Maſquerade in the Park; as
 ' my father was determin'd to make their ſtay
 ' with us as agreeable as he could, he imme-
 ' diately conſented, and preparations were made.
 ' Louiſa and I promiſed to inform Mr. Gren-
 ' ville

‘ ville what our dresses would be, that he might
‘ not mistake us. As the company expected
‘ was very large, the great hall was prepared
‘ for us to dance in, and a band of musick pro-
‘ perly disposed in the park. Around the trees
‘ were hung festoons of lamps that made it as
‘ brilliant as day. It was in the beginning of
‘ June, and the weather very warm. We fix-
‘ ed on an evening when the moon was at full,
‘ and the brightness of that beautiful planet
‘ cast the most delightful shade upon our deco-
‘ rations imaginable. We had hung large
‘ wreaths of flowers about the trees in different
‘ parts, which had a pleasing effect. In the
‘ midst of the Park was built a kind of am-
‘ phitheatre, ornamented in the most elegant
‘ manner: my father had spared no expence to
‘ make it compleat; and the taste of Mr. Gren-
‘ ville assisted in finishing it. Louisa appeared
‘ as Flora; her dress was white muslin made
‘ close to the body, and ornamented with
‘ wreaths of artificial flowers which were twined
‘ all round her arms down to the wrist: she
‘ held a basket in her hand of the finest flowers
‘ that could be collected; she wore a small
‘ chip hat on her head, from which hung care-
‘ lessly two long streamers of flowers;---the
‘ delicacy of her figure gave you a just idea of
‘ the goddess, and she looked charmingly. I
‘ would have wore the habit of a nun, but Mr.
‘ Gren-

' Grenville begged I would accept that of an
 ' Eastern Princess, which he had procured for
 ' me. To oblige him, I did. It was very
 ' elegant, the petticoats silver tiffue, from all
 ' parts of which small tassels of spangles de-
 ' pended that gave a great richness to it. The
 ' robe was of fine muslin, worked in pretty sil-
 ' ver sprigs, and made close to the waist, and
 ' to the wrist, like Louisa's; the train was
 ' extremely long, and fastened up on one side
 ' with a large diamond clasp, the other flowing
 ' redundant in the wind. My hair, as is the
 ' custom of warm countries, tied with a white
 ' ribbon, and hung carelessly down my back;
 ' a row of diamond pins were placed in the
 ' form of a crescent in the front of my hair;
 ' a large veil of spangled gauze that hung from
 ' my head a length upon the ground, and a
 ' small helmet of white feathers compleated
 ' the dress, which was universally admired, and
 ' worn with pleasure by me, as it was a satis-
 ' faction to Augustus who had taken the trou-
 ' ble to provide it. He appeared himself in
 ' the character of Apollo, and looked and
 ' moved the blooming god. Lord William as
 ' an Indian Chief. The Earl as a Friar. The
 ' Countess, a Brickdust Woman. Mr. Som-
 ' ners as a Quaker. Mrs. Somners, a Shep-
 ' herdess. And my father, after much persua-
 ' sion, a Druid.

' To make the entertainment more agreeable,
 ' we had determined not to inform each other
 ' of our habits; and I believe we were all
 ' strangers to each other's characters, except
 ' Mr. Grenville, Louisa, and I.---When we
 ' retired to dress, we consented to meet him in
 ' a particular spot in the park, where we ac-
 ' cordingly went. As soon as he saw us he
 ' exclaimed, "you surpass yourself, Adeline,
 ' in this habit." He begged us to pull off our
 ' masks: we did, and he payed us many fine
 ' compliments on our beauty. We then joined
 ' the company in the park, which was very
 ' large, and in a variety of elegant dresses. I
 ' walked between Louisa and Mr. Grenville:
 ' the brilliancy of my habit, engaged the obser-
 ' vation of every person we met. We were
 ' followed by a Druid: "Who shall dare ap-
 ' proach, (said he) that beauteous fair-one,
 ' who is guarded by divinity on both sides?"
 ' I little thought this sage was my father,
 ' which I discovered afterwards. Louisa was
 ' soon taken from us by the Indian chief, and
 ' I was uneasy for her, till, by his voice, I
 ' found it was Lord William. Mr. Grenville
 ' never stirred from me the whole evening; and
 ' I may justly say I never passed a more agreea-
 ' ble one. He often mentioned his sorrow for
 ' the approaching time of his going again to
 ' Oxford, as he was never a moment easy out of
 ' my

' my company: entreated me to inform him
 ' the first instant I found my heart prejudiced
 ' in favour of any man, as the happiness of his
 ' life depended on it. I assured him he might
 ' depend on my doing every thing in my power
 ' to make him happy; and that he should be
 ' informed of every emotion of my heart, as
 ' soon as I knew it myself. He thanked me,
 ' and we again joined the croud. We soon af-
 ' ter retired into the house, where we found an
 ' elegant supper ready; after which we got to
 ' dancing, and did not separate till four o'clock
 ' in the morning. Both Louisa and I were
 ' heartily tired, and glad to retire to rest.

' Thus passed this short month that Lord
 ' William and his brother spent with us, in all
 ' sorts of amusements they could invent. We
 ' returned the Dutchess's visit, and were gen-
 ' teely received by her. She expressed the
 ' greatest desire of an intimacy with Mrs. Som-
 ' ners, Louisa, and me; said she should al-
 ' ways rejoice to see us; and hoped we would
 ' cultivate, as much as possible, the acquaint-
 ' ance.

' Mrs. Somners, who was very much pleased
 ' with her Grace, told her, she would con-
 ' tinue to visit her, when the Countess returned
 ' to Grenville-abbey, as she had honoured her
 ' with an invitation.

‘ Thus were things situated when the young gentlemen returned to the university. Our parting with Augustus was not quite so bad as the former ; for he alleviated our concerns, by declaring he would not be absent more than six months.

‘ At the particular desire of my father, Lord and Lady Bromfield consented to spend the summer with us, to the great joy of the Dutchess, who was really very much attached to the Countess. We passed a great deal of time with her Grace, after the departure of Lord William and Mr. Grenville. She was a charming woman, and endeavoured, by every method in her power, to make her company agreeable to young people. She effectually succeeded, for both Louisa and myself had the utmost esteem for her.

‘ About three months after the Earl’s sons returned to Oxford, the Duke came home : her Grace gave a ball on the occasion, to which we were invited. Louisa and myself, by my father’s desire, had new dresses, which were very elegant. The evening came, and we repaired to the Duke’s house : his mother introduced us to him as persons she very much esteemed. He received us with great politeness, and led us to the upper end of the room. I was a good deal confused, when I found he meant to open the ball with me : I could not

‘ re-

' refuse, and we danced the first minuet together. As he led me to my seat, he begged I
 ' would honour him with my hand the rest of
 ' the evening. I told him I was obliged to
 ' him, tho' in reality I had much rather been
 ' excused. Louisa danced with a foreign nobleman, who was as assiduous to her as his
 ' Grace was to me. The Dutchess complimented me on the conquest I had made. "I
 ' see my son is entirely captivated with you,"
 ' (said she) indeed I expected no other. I am
 ' quite happy he has brought his heart to bestow on one of his fair country-women.
 ' This night he has given it you; I can see
 ' that plainly, Miss Belville." "If your
 ' Grace means to raise my vanity, you will not
 ' succeed, (replied I). I should be sorry if
 ' what you say was true." "Do not tell me
 ' so, my dear; (answered the Dutchess) but
 ' your delicacy may not like to be rallied on
 ' this head." Before I could reply, the Duke
 ' joined us: "What is your subject, ladies?"
 ' "Why, my Lord, (answered his mother) I
 ' have been telling Miss Belville she is the
 ' handsomest woman in the room, and she is
 ' angry at it." "Your Grace should have
 ' said in the whole world; (replied he) for I
 ' never before beheld so compleat a beauty; and
 ' I have been over greatest part of the known
 ' world." "Your Grace is worse than your

‘ mother, cried I, and if you please we will
 ‘ join the dancers.” He instantly took my
 ‘ hand and led me to the top of the room, and
 ‘ continued particularly assiduous and attentive
 ‘ the remainder of the evening. We had a su-
 ‘ perb entertainment, after which we returned
 ‘ to the park. The Duke at parting, said he
 ‘ would do himself the honour of calling on
 ‘ me the next day. I told him I was obliged
 ‘ to him.

‘ I said little all the way home; the Coun-
 ‘ tesses observed, the Duke was an elegant man :
 ‘ I was silent. “ What do you think of him,
 ‘ Miss Belville; is he not handsome?” “ I do
 ‘ not think he is, madam.” You are not
 ‘ grateful then; he thinks you very beautiful.”
 ‘ I made no reply to this speech, and we reached
 ‘ the park without any more being said about
 ‘ him.

‘ Louisa and I went directly to our dressing-
 ‘ room : I threw myself on a sofa, and sighed.
 ‘ “ What is the matter, Adeline? (said my
 ‘ friend) are you not well?” “ Very well,
 ‘ Louisa, but out of spirits.” “ What! when
 ‘ you have made so material a conquest! Fye,
 ‘ my dear, you may be a Dutchess if you please.”
 ‘ I have no ambition, Louisa; but why do you
 ‘ imagine I have made a conquest of the Duke?”
 ‘ “ It was evident (replied she) to the whole
 ‘ room that he was greatly struck with you : I
 ‘ heard

' heard more than one person observe it, and
 ' declare they did not wonder at it, for you
 ' was the most beautiful girl they ever had
 ' seen." "Nay, do not you flatter too, Louisa;
 ' if this should really be the case, I am very
 ' sorry for it, instead of being glad; the
 ' Duke may be a worthy man, but I do not
 ' like him: besides, I am far too young to think
 ' of lovers; but just sixteen! any body would
 ' laugh to hear us talking so seriously of making
 ' conquests." "Your age does not signify,
 ' Adeline; the Duke will certainly make
 ' you an offer, and as certainly you must
 ' accept him." Thus did she talk, and find-
 ' ing she would not say what I wished her, I
 ' complained of being fatigued, and broke off
 ' the conversation.

' Soon after breakfast the next day the Duke
 ' came; as I knew he was to call, I was obliged
 ' to go down. He was very polite, enquired
 ' particularly about me, and was so violently
 ' attentive, I wished him gone.

' Thus passed three months more, his grace
 ' seeking by every way he could think of to
 ' gain my affections, but in vain; I regarded
 ' him only as an acquaintance; there was
 ' something in his manner disagreeable to me,
 ' nor did any method he took to please me have
 ' the desired effect. As he had not publicly
 ' owned his passion, he had nobody that di-
 ' rectly

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rectly pleaded for him, but they all appeared ready to engage in his favour on a proper opportunity; even Louisa seemed to think I was too much prejudiced against him. Thus were we situated, when the Earl one day received a letter from Oxford as we were setting at dinner, which appeared to discompose him. When the servants were withdrawn, he addressed the Countess: "This letter contains some disagreeable news, my dear Lady Bromfield: as there are none but friends present, if you please I will read it." The Countess looked alarmed. "You need not distress yourself, my dear, (continued the Earl) our boys are well." "Thank God, (said she) proceed, my Lord, I am all attention." I took a copy of the letter, the contents of which were these.—[The Letter here alluded to, begins Vol. III.]



- Page 40, l. 22, for rejected, read rejected,
- 50, l. 14, for I, read they.
- 54, l. 31, for love, read lose.
- 150, l. 21, for conjecturing, read conjectures,
- 160, l. 8, for charge, read change.
- 223, l. 28, for resolution, read recollections